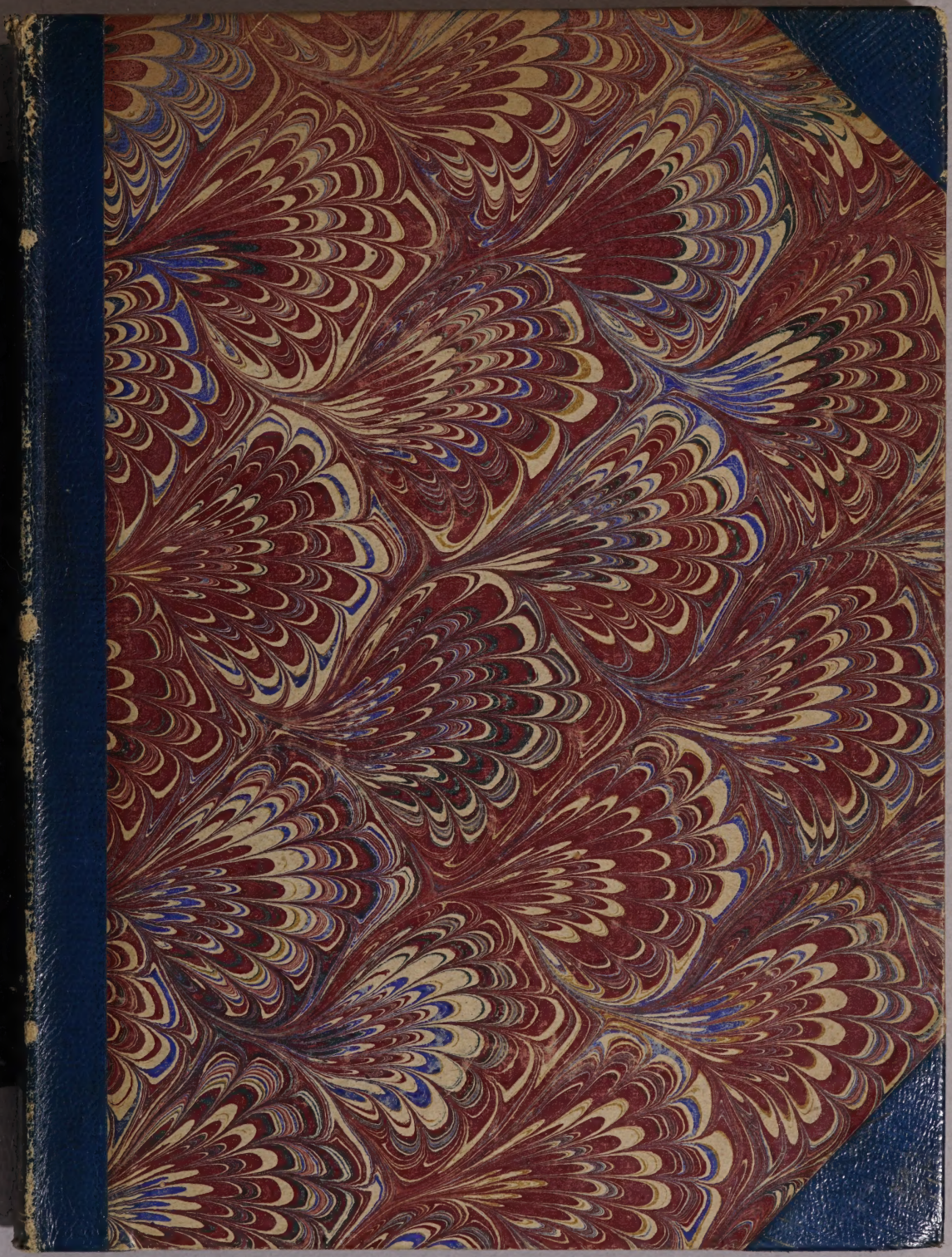

John Carter Brown
Library
Brown University

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

'In Paradise the Tree
Of Knowledge was the pride;
By God's supreme decree,
The man who eat, then died.

But Heaven in mercy since
Does him who tastes forgive;
To know is no offence:
Now, he who eats, shall live.'

HENRY STEVENS of Vermont, FSA, &c
4 Trafalgar Square, London.

53.

1st issue

This is variant p. 96.

3129

Moſes and Aaron:

Or, The Rights of CHURCH and STATE;

Containing two

DISPUTATIONS.

The former concerning the Church, in which are examined the principles of Separation, and their inconſiſtency with truth and peace demonſtrated: and the Government of the Church vindicated into the hands of her proper Rulers.

The latter aſſerts the ſacredneſſe of the perſons and authority of Kings againſt Sacrilegious uſurpation and King-killing.

By that judicious and faithful Miniſter of Chriſt, Mr. *JAMES NOYES*, ſometimes of *Newbury* in *NEW ENGLAND.*

Publiſhed by *Benj. Woodbridge*, Rector of *Newbury* in the County of *BERKS.*

Numb. 16. 3. *And they gathered themſelves together againſt* Moſes *and againſt* Aaron, *and ſaid unto them, Ye take too much upon you, ſeeing all the Congregation are holy every one of them, and the Lord is among them: Wherefore then lift ye up your ſelves above the Congregation of the Lord?*

Jude ver. 11. *Periſhed in the Gain-ſaying of* Coreh.

LONDON,

Printed by *T. R.* for *Edmund Paxton*, in *Pauls-chain*, over againſt the *Caſtle* Tavern, near *Doctors Commons* 1661.

To the most
HIGH and MIGHTY
PRINCE *CHARLES* the second,
by the Grace of God KING of
great Britain, *France* and *Ireland*,
Defender of the Faith, *&c.*

Most dread Soveraign,

WE have seen and heard of strange things in our dayes: the sea dried up, *Jordan* turned backward, the day neither day nor night and at evening light, desperate sorrow and trouble in the evening, but before the morning gone away. Was it not thus in *Germany*, when all things there being deplorable and without hope of recovery, a King

King from the North was raiſed up at the prayers and tears of the people of God, who ſuddenly reſtored all beyond expectation? and was it not thus again in *England*, and the adjoyned Countries, when the Sectarian Army under thoſe grand Uſurpers of our time, had deprived us of King, Parliaments, Liberties, and orderly Government, and had almoſt utterly overthrown the Church and State, Truth and Religion, and were become as a wall of iron againſt all oppoſite attempts, and after the defeat of Sir *George Booth* there ſeemed to be no more hope remaining? For then when the ſtate of things was deſperate and hopeleſſe, did Chriſt raiſe up Generall *Monck* from the North after the ſimilitude of *Conſtantine*, *Ziſca* and the King of *Sweden*, by whom the face of things was ſtrangly changed on a ſudden, and a lively hope of reſtauration with advantage unexpectedly reduced. This was done when all help failed, when the oppreſſor ſeemed irreſiſtible; and it was done by a little ſtrength, without blood, without a ſtroke: that it might appear, that it was the finger of the Almighty that had done all this, as riſing up againſt the proud and inſo-

lent

lent oppreſſors. Now therefore, whereas we have been in a ſuffering State theſe many years,& God hath now raiſed up your Majeſty to the Throne of Government by a ſtrange and unexpected hand, how can we but expect ſome great birth (for the Church is like a travailing woman,and after every travaile it ſhall bring forth) and not onely the reſtauration of the Church defaced, but alſo the riſing of Chriſts Kingdom to a greater height and enlargement then in former times? The report of proclaiming your Majeſty and your moſt joyful return into *England* hath wrought in our hearts incredible joy and gladneſſe. And I am like the ſervant of *Elias* looking out,and looking ſeven times, till I ſee the little cloud ariſing that ſhal increaſe more and more,till all the heavens be covered with clouds,& a great rain of righteouſneſs come down upon the earth to refreſh the hearts of men parched w^th^ drought. *Let the heavens rejoyce, and the earth be glad, let mountains burſt forth into praiſes, and all the trees of the field clap their hands: becauſe God hath viſited his people, and hath comforted his afflicted.* And let that noble General be bleſſed, and a full reward be given him of the

God

God of *Israel* who hath been honoured to be be so great an instrument in so great a service, and let his name be unto all posterity renowned. Arise O *Jerusalem* and shine, shake off the dust of thy dejection, put on thy royal garments. Thou mayest again go forth with songs, together with thy King and with thy Nobles, and with the comely order of thy Governours, and with the refined order of thy Priests and Elders. Thou mayest again go forth in the dance, and with the Tabret of thy spiritual and temporal delight. Thou mayest yet again cease to be a reproach to the Nations, the taile of the people; for thy Maker is thine husband, he hath not cast thee off, he hath had compassion one thy affliction, he hath restored thy King again, he will cloath thee yet with scarlet, and hang jewels of gold upon thine apparel; so mayest thou be beautified with grace, and truth, and glory external also.

And now most Royal King, fill the sails of our hopes with the blasts of your Noble atchievements; and be like the Sun, that cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber, and rejoyceth as a mighty man to run his race. Let the

the glory of God and the welfare of his Church be the end you look at. So ſhall Chriſt the Sun of righteouſneſs run along in your Royal Government, and make you a greater King at laſt then you were at firſt. Let Popery and all hereſie fall before you; Let not needleſſe and offenſive Ceremonies be rigorouſly impoſed; Let men of courage and zeal be ſet up under you in all place that ſhall ſuppreſs profaneneſs; Let godly Miniſters be encouraged, and let no idle, unlearned or heretical Miniſter be found in your Land; Let learning be promoted, and men excellent in gifts be ſet apart for writing, according to their ſeveral and diſtinct qualifications. I cannot but believe that you are ready of your ſelf to do all theſe things, and more alſo then I have ſaid: yet give me leave, I pray your Majeſty to adde a little breath unto your ſayls.

Now as touching this work that followeth I have preſnmed to dedicate the ſame to your Royal Majeſty, becauſe the matter of it pertaineth to your conſideration, and becauſe there is adjoyned alſo a Treatiſe about Civil Government, and becauſe of the ſingular joy and hopes I have of your aſcending into the

Throne, and becauſe the Author was a ſpecial lover of your Royal Father (of bleſſed memory) and of your Majeſty, the fall of whom ſtuck ſo cloſe and neer unto him, and wrought in him ſo deep ſorrow and affliction, that it is thought to have been the principal cauſe of his death. Let your Majeſties Gracious acceptation countenance the work.

Now the God of all Grace and Mercy, who hath raiſed up your Majeſty into the Throne of Royal Government, and hath in ſo doing begun to ſhine upon his people with unexpected light ariſing out of darkneſs, confirm and eſtabliſh you upon your Throne, and crown you with grace, proſperity and glory, unto his own everlaſting praiſe, the beauty and enlargement of the Church, and to the laying a foundation of higher advancement of your ſelf in the future world then can be here expected, This is, and ſhall be the conſtant prayer of,

Your Majeſties moſt Loyal
ſervant and ſubject

THOMAS PARKER,

a Miniſter of the Goſpel, though unworthy, and Paſtor to the Church of Newbury *in* New England.

Written from *Newbury* in *New England* *Auguſt.6.* 1660.

TO THE READER.

Gentle Reader,

Thou mayest not expect this work should be so perfect and exact, as if the Author had been living to put it out himself. The original Copy also was lately lost in a ship foundred at Sea; and he wrote this Treatise in the last half year of his life, which was a time of continual weakness and sickuesse ending in his death. I did often press him long before to set down his notions in writing; but he was still averse, until the foresaid half year of his last continuance on earth. Notwitstanding all these discouragements, I thought it not meet to deprive thee of the use of this his last labour, because I conceived it would be very useful for the

present times. The Author, Mr. James Noyes *(my worthy colleague in the Ministry of the Gospel here) was a man of singular qualifications, in piety excelling, an implacable enemy to all heresie and schism, and a most able warriour against the same. He was of a reaching and ready apprehension, a large invention, a most profound judgment, a rare, and tenacious, and comprehensive memory, fixed and unmovable in his grounded conceptions, sure in words and speech without rashnesse, gentle and mild in all expressions, without all passion or provocative language; and as he was a notable disputant, so he never would provoke his adversary saving by the short knocks, and heavy weight of argument. He was of so loving, and compassionate, and humble carriage, that I believe never any were acquainted with him, but did desire the continuance of his society and acquaintance. He was resolute for truth, and in defence thereof had no respect to any persons He was a most excellent Counsellor in doubts, and could strike at a haires breadth like the* Benjamites, *and expedite the intangled out of the briars. He was couragious in dangers, and still was apt to believe the best, and made faire weather in a storm. He was much honoured and esteemed*

esteemed in the Countrey, and his death was much bewailed. I think he may be reckoned among the greatest worthies of this age. Upon the rising of our late usurpers, and the beheading of our most gracious and most excellent King Charles *the first of blessed Memory by a villanous stroke, and under a wicked pretence of Justice, & upon the defeating of our renowned King* Charles *the second (whom God preserve) he fell into such a depth of sadnesse and sorrow of heart that it hastened his death as was believed. So he died in the* 48th. *year of his age,* Octob. 22. 1656. *He left behind him this posthume, imperfect and incompleat, which if he had lived he would have perfected, with the addition of many rare and excellent notions, for the enlightning and discovery of truths; which having now lost, we have cause to bewaile our sins which keep good things from us; and we are to be thankful for what we do enjoy. But I cease to trouble thee any further, and end, Resting,*

Thine in the Lord

THO. PARKER,

Pastor, though unworthy of the Church at *Newbury* in *New England.*

August. 6. 1660.

The chief

PROPOSITIONS

debated in the following

TREATISE.

THat the whole visible Church is one integral body. pag. 2.

Right to ordinances depends not on consociation with particular Churches. p. 19.

One particular Church may consist of many Congregations. p. 26.

Elders essential to the being of particular Churches. p. 27.

Election by the Church not essential to the constitution of Elders. p. 32.

Ordination of Elders by common members unlawful. p. 38.

Common members may not govern by suffrage together with their Elders. p. 42.

Elder preach the Gospel by way of Office. p 57.

And that unto all the world as occasion serves. p. 58.

And are also Elders unto all Churches as occasion serves. 59.

Private

Private men may not preach in the Church. p.60.
Bishops according to Christs institution. p.62.
The subordination of Ecclesiastical power to Civil. p.69.
The subordination of Civil and Ecclesiastical power to Christ. p.76,78.
The Rule of admission into the Church. p.82,83
All Elders are teaching Elders. p.85

Reader,

This Copy being not written by the Author, but by an unlearned Scribe, there are many Errata's in it which thy own attention will discover and amend. These following I could not but amend to thy hand.

Pag. 7. line 1. dele, is not and yet, *ibid.* line 19. dele Not. p. 32. l. 10. for which r. with. p. 37. l. 3. r. to themselves.

A Disputation Concerning The Church.

1. MY desire is to cast in my mite for the clearing of some present controversies, I may not enlarge by reason of many infirmities, and for want of books, and all other accommodations and furniture, *errare possum, hæreticus esse nolo.* I shall endeavour through grace to keep channel of truth, though it be true *veritas odium parit*, I do hope some gracious councell will shortly determine mens private apprehensions.

Concereing the unity of the Church.

Prop. 1.

THe militant Church of Christ, is one integral body visibly indued by Christ with Church power. The Apostles were Catholick members, not members of one particular Church more then another. And there is a Catholick Church power to make Catholick members. Secondly, They were Catholick elders. Therefore there was a Catholick Church power, and there is the same need to the end of the world. Thirdly, The visible Church is one City, a City hath its policy. *Eph.* 2. 12. 29. *Ezek.* 48. 35. Every gate, which represents particular Churches, admitted into the City. *Rev.* 21. 1. 2, 20, 4. One house and family. 1 *Tim.* 3. 15. *Ephes.* 2. 12. 19. One body, having its visible head, and integrall parts for government. 1 *Cor.* 1. 13. and 10. 17. one olive tree: *Rom.* 11. 17. one Temple, *Ezek.* 43. 11, 12. one Mother, 4. 25. one floore, *Mat.* 3. 12. one Kingdome, *Mat.* 16. 19. one Church, *Mat.* 16. 18. on Court, *Rev.* 11. 2, 3. one candlestick, *Ezek.* 4. 3. one *Jerusalem. Gal.* 4. 25. *Rev.* 11. 1. 2. & 21, 1, 2. one Bride or spouse, *Rev.* 21. 1, 2. one net *Mat.* 13. 47. 6. *Cornelius*, the *Eunuch Lidia*; the Jaylor, were admitted Catholick members into no particular Church in specialty. 7 all particular members are Catholick members. 1. *Cor.* 10, 17, and 12, 13. 8 all mi-

Act. 12 13. Eph. 3. 21. 1 Tim. 3. 15. Rom. 12. 4. 5.

ministers of particular Churches are Catholick ministers *Mat.* 28. 19. 1 *Cor.* 5, 5. and 10. 17. and 12. 13. They have commission for all Nations, they excommunicate out of all Churches, 9. All visible disciples are to be baptized as Catholick members into the name of the Father, Son and Holy-Ghost. Without mention of being baptized into a particular Church *Mat.* 28. 19. 10. all members have a Catholick right to ordnances in all Churches in way of communion, therefore are Catholick members. The power of a particular Church cannot give Catholick power, as such, 11. Catholick communion argues Catholick union. Thus catholick union is politick, because the communion is politicall. The administration of the seales implyes power, and if there be a politick union and communion in power, why not also in power of juridiction (*Salva ecclesiarum particularum juridictione*) 12. One visible covenant implied in the profession of faith doth make one visible Church, one mutuall covenant in a republick makes one politick body, one mutuall covenant of many Cities, make one repulick, many perfect republicks, may become one by mutuall covenant, 13. The church is so one body, that every member hath freedom in every congregation. Such as are united in a republick, use to be excluded from freedom in particular corporations though, part of the same republick. The Church is so one body, that a member cast out of any part, is cut off from the whole, from Christ the head, from the Kingdom of Christ. In a republick one may be ejected out of one corporation and out of one City, and yet be admitted into another, 14. The union mystical maketh one church

miſtycally therefore the union viſible by profeſſion, by implicit covenant maketh one body viſibly. Viſible profeſſion doth unite all members and churches in power of order, why not alſo in power of juriſdiction? 15. An implicit covenant is ſufficient to make a particular church therefore to conſtitute a catholick church alſo. And in the acts of the Apoſtles the implicite covenanting was directed to the catholick church as much as to any particular, ſo far as the text ſpeaks, yea ſomtimes the catholick onely as appears by the admiſſion of *Lidia*, *Cornelius*, and ſuch like *Acts*. 8. 37. as ſome are admitted by implicit covenant, ſo children are borne into the church without any perſonall covenant at all. A Servant by covenanting with his maſter, doth thereby bind himſelf ſufficiently to hold fellowſhip with all his fellow ſervants, 16. We are joyned to *Iſraels* covenant, and ſo made one catholick church, uniting all to one high Prieſt and Temple and City. And it appears not to be altered by Chriſt in this reſpect, 17. The church of the *Jews* was a type & patterne of the chriſtian church *Ezek.* 41. and 42. *Rv.* 11. 12. and 21. 18. chriſt is one viſible head, husband, Maſter of the family, one Biſhop one King, *&c.* one body in propriety, hath but one head, one husband hath but one wife *Eccleſiæ non eſt Reſp. non ariſtocratia ſed regnum Beza Epiſt.* 83.

Object. A King may be King to more Kingdomes then one, and ſo be a part or member politickly in more Kingdomes then one.

Anſw. Then it ariſeth from ſome dividing and particular relation and covenant made to each particular Kingdome. But Chriſt is King and head to the church

Church by no particular and dividing relation and covenant made to each church, Christ is a visible head and the Apostles were visible elders to all churches as united in one and the same covenant, not as divided by any constitution essentially distinct in compleat and perfect societies. The Apostles were members of the catholick church though they had right and power in all churches, the Scriptures make christ the head of one body, as well as of many, a King of one Kingdom not of many the King *England* is King of *England* and *Scotland* as two Kingdomes essentially divided.

Object. *Christ is a mistycall head.*

Answ. Christ is also a visible head of the church, being intelligible. *Mediante sensu.* 1. He is man aswell as God, and the King of *Israel* as man, therefore he is a visible head, 2. If Christ be not a visible head, the visible church is a body without a head proportionate, 3. *Moses* a type of Christ was a visible mediator to whom the tribes assembled, *Numb.* 10.44. Christ was a visible head when he dwelt on the earth, and he is now only gone into a far countrey, 5. He is represented by visible Kings, and Prophets, and reason forceth us to make these visible representations of a visible head only. As *Adam* was a visible head to *Eve*, and Christ is our head and husband and flesh of our flesh, and bone of our bone typified in *Adam*. *Ephes.* 5. 30. 6. The church is described as having a visible Prince, *Ezek.* 45. 7. 46. 10 7. Christ became man that he might be the more futable, and enjoyable head to his Church. He is not invisible because absent, Christ is now seen only in heaven, because, of his bodily presence, yet

visible on earth because of his humane essence *Heb.* 2. 17.

Ob. *The church is called one as a* genus *in a generall sence.*

Answ. A *genus* is such a mysterious notion in Logick that in probability the Scripture, wich sutes it self to the vulgar, doth not make such frequent use of it. Secondly, it hath been supposed, that a *genus* is predicated in compleatly of its *species*. It was never yet determined by any councel that a numerical difference is specifical and that *individuum* is *species*. *Genus contractum est pars speciei.* The church of Christ is one really existing, one visible thing imediatly as hath been shewed in the similitude of one City, one body. &c. *Genus est unum ratione, multiplex ex parte rei. Omnis res est singularis, Genus est idem physice cum speciebus.* A *Genus* is immediately invisible as being *unum ratione tantum.* 4. Though the church may hold forth a generical notion, yet the church of God, the church of Christ, and the church in our common language, do denote an *individuum determinatium*, my house and my church and the house of God (as the Scripture speaks, 1 *Tim.* 3. 5. *Mat.* 16. 18) are demonstrative and individual notifications according to our usual speech, and when we speak properly at least. The mystical church is one integral body, therefore also the visible is one, and consequently spoken of as one integral body, unless some reason proves the contrary. 5. A church indued & described with apostles prophets &c. is not a general church because it is not applicable to or predicable of the present church. But a *genus* of a church is aplicable to or predicable of all churches at all times. Every particular church is not a church indued with apostles & prophets: but every church is a church, 6. That church which is the imediate subject of officers, is not a *genus* or generical church, because a *genus* doth not imediately *exist*. But the church

Eph. 2. 19. Act. 2. 4. 7.

church spoken of *Mat.*16.18. & 1*Cor.*12.28. is not & yet is the subject of offices. It is not a particular church, because apostles were not parts of a particular church, nor were the Keys given to Peter & the other apostles in reference to on particular church, the church of Christ considered as one *integrum*, may be said to have in it Appostles and Prophets and in all ages, because the same integral body in substance remaines: and also in one age, and not in another, because it may be altered in circumstances, 7. That church which doth immediately *exist* is not a *genus*. *Genus existit. in individuis.* But the catholick church in Scriptures doth immediately *exist.* as having catholick children, as being mother of chatholick children. The root and body of the olive do *Exist* before the branches. The universall church is causally before particular churches succeeding. A preceeding universal church doth *exist* before succeeding particular church and the vertue and power of the universal church did primarily *exist* in the apostles Christ the head could not derive & preserve the power of the Keys in one Peter alone. 8 The catholick church doth immediately act, admit and excommunicate, dispense the seales, and as hath been shewed *Actus sunt singularium.* 6. It is compar'd to one individual body with its memers and their offices 1*Cor.* 12.13. 28. 9. 10. It is one body politick by covenant, as hath been shewed: 11. It hath one visible head immediately, Christ the Lord, therefore it is by proportion a visible body. There had need be logicall catechismes to maintaine independent churches. The notionall, genericall church may not be a sufficient basis to bear up the independent schisme against a nationall or an universall church. Independency doth teare the coat, the body of Christ into pieces. It cuts, hacks and hews

the

the fat olive into chips or blocks. It doth dis-ject the stones of Gods visible Temple, 12. That church into which Paul and the *Corinthians* were baptized together was not a particular church. Paul was not baptized into the same Particular body, into the particular church at *Corinth*, if into any, 1 *Cor.* 12. 13. Neither was the church a generall church, because it is describ'd as visible by visible elders, actions and offices, *ver.* 24.

Object. *The Apostles were members in all particular churches, and Elders in all particular churches, and so in the church of* Corinth. 1. Cor. 12. 27.

Answ. 1 That church into which the Apostles were baptized together with the *Corinthians* was not the church of *Corinth* nor any other particular church, 2 The Apostle would have said that God had set apostles, *&c.* In your church, if he had meant the church of *Corinth.* 3. Why should the Apostle call the church of *Corinth* (the church,) 4 Why should we restrain the setting of the apostles in the church, to the church of *Corinth*, sith they were such catholick elders, and over all Churches. The apostles were not members and elders in the church of *Corinth* as such by speciall relation.

We are all members in all churches respectively, but not absolutely, in a generall sence as catholick members of a particular church. All naturall grounds of fellowship in particular churches, for more ordinary execution, do require fellowship in the whole catholick church for lesse ordinary execution, occasionally; as brotherly union, Christian profession, mutuall edification, celebration of the name of Christ,

It

It is generally suppoſed that churches have generally power to act in way of counſel judicially & authoritatively conjunctim. And if this be granted, it followes that the church is one politick body viſibly. *Operatio ſequitur eſſe.* The Apoſtles and extraordinary Elders did act judicially, they made laws or decrees, and made uſe of their own names in way of authority in all churches, *Act.* 15. And ſucceeding elders have the ſame commiſſion, except wherein they are by ſome apparent inſtitution limmitted in other texts, *Mat.* 28. 28. *In Synodo eſt authoritatis apex totius eccleſiæ unitas, ordinis firmamentum.* Leid. Prof. de conciliis. *Eccleſia catholica eſt viſibilis tota ſimul, etſi nondum viſa. Multi ſumus paſtores, ſed unum paſcimus gregem* Cypr.

Object. *Apoſtles* &c. *may be ſaid to be ſet in the catholick viſible church* (1 *Cor.* 12. 28.) *mediately, mediantibus particularibus Eccleſiis:*

Anſw. 1. The apoſtles were in all particular churches alike. 2. They were moſt of them precedent to all particular churches, as chriſtians in diſtinction from the Jewiſh church. 3. They had catholick power which could not ariſe from relation to a particular church. 4. We may as well ſay that they were ſet in the catholick church immediately, no reaſon enforcing the contrary. 5. We may better ſay they were immediately ſet in the catholick church, becauſe it is more obvious without a diſtinction, and becauſe *non eſt diſtinguendum ubi ſcriptura non cogit.* 6. They were ſet in the church as part of the church into which they were baptized. The *Apoſtle* applies this verſe to what he had diſcourſed concerning the members and part of the Church before, now the apoſtles were parts of no particular church in ſpeciall. 7. Other argu-

ments prove that Apoſtles ſpeaks elſewhere of conſtituting elders and members in the catholick church immediatly, and therefore well may this text be likewiſe interpreted.

Object. *The Church myſticall may be meant.*

Anſw. 1. The apoſtles wrote to the viſible church in all their Epiſtles immediatly, and elſewhere were wont to ſpeak of the viſible church uſually, and there is no need to underſtand the apoſtle otherwiſe, when he ſpeaketh of the church as catholick. 2. They ſpeak of the viſible church in the Judgment of charity, as if all in the viſible belonged to the myſticall. They call all Saints, and count all elect in oppoſition to judiciall evidence of the contrary, and for as much as the myſticall is in the viſible, though the viſible be not in the myſticall, it is common to deſcribe the viſible church by the properties and characters of the myſticall, *Jer.* 31.32. and 32. 39, 40. 3. If there be any Catholick viſible church, why may we not underſtand that as well as the myſticall here, where the Apoſtles ſpeak of a catholick church. 4. The Apoſtles were baptized into the viſible church immediatly, and all elders are ſet in the viſible church imediately. None are of the myſtical church. *Niſi mediante eccleſia viſibili.* And what need of clearing the apoſtle by ſuch a diſtinction, while it is clear and obvious to underſtand by one body and church the viſible catholick church. 5. All the *Corinthians* were not baptized into the myſtical church, unleſſe they were all found in the faith, neither could the Apoſtle ſpeak ſo of all viſible members in the *Corinthian* Church, but by the Judgment of Charity. 6. The *ſimiles*, one City, one field, and one fold, &c. do na-

naturally represent a visible Church, and there is no reason to restrain and confine them to the invisible. 7. It is described as one visible by its visible elders, and by its visible various and distinct gifts. If one describes a man by his eyes and hands &c. He surely intends to describe him as consisting of a body, *Ephes.* 4. 4, 11, 12. 1 *Cor.* 12. 13, 28. *Mat.* 16. 18. Many other arguments are forcible to me to evince a catholick visible and politick church, above specified. Visible church-acts are immediately both from and upon the church as visible. Independent practise doth teare the Catholick church in pieces, and together with its principles and distinctions doth interre it also. 9. This church was in danger of being cut off, *Rom.* 11. 17, 19. It was capable of schisme, 1 *Cor.* 13. 11. This Church did communicate in the seals, It did herein act as visible. 12. This church was sealed into the covenant, and that covenant was visible as well as invisible, *Gen.* 17. 7. 1 *Cor.* 12. 12, 13.

1 Cor. 12. 12, 13, 24. 25. Eph. 4. 16. John 17. 16. Mat. 13. 44.

1 Cor. 12. 26. 13. 8. & 1. 8. 17

Prop. 2.

MEmbers of the catholick Church, have immediate right to Church ordinances as occasion requires in opposition to necessary dependance on particular Churches for Membership.

1. Members of a Church which hath immediate power to dispense Church ordinances, have immediate right to church ordinances. Catholick members are members of such a Church. The major is true, because power to dispense ordinances, requires proportionate priviledge in members.

The minor is true, becauſe power to diſpenſe ordinances is proper to a church, or common to every Church. *Rev.* 11. 1. *Rom.* 9. 4. *Mat.* 16. 18. and 18, 17. churches have the ſervice of God. The church hath Keys of the Kingdome, and power to excommunicate immediately for any thing the text ſpeaks to the contrary.

2. Thoſe that are Church members, have immediate right to Church ordinances. Catholick members are church members, the major is true, becauſe Church priviledge is proper to Church members, and church power to Church officers; the minor is true, becauſe a catholick church hath catholick members.

3. Such power as miniſters of particular churches may have, ſuch right Catholick members have to partake of ordinances, Miniſters of particular churches may have immediate catholick power to diſpenſe ordinances, the minor is true, becauſe Miniſters of particular churches have catholick power to diſpence ordinances to members of other churches, this power is catholick. A particular church cannot give power in other churches, becauſe power is a proper conſequence of the form of the church; and a particular Church can give no other power then is correſpondent to a particular form, *Nihil poteſt dare quod non habet*, one man hath not power over another as a man. This Catholick power may be alſo immediate in Miniſters, Miniſters may be Miniſters though actually relating to no particular churches. *Mat.* 28. 28. And catholick memberſhip doth not neceſſarily depend on particular memberſhip, one may be a member of a Kingdome, and yet of no paticular corporation.

ration. It doth not depend neceſſarily in way of efficiency, for one may be a member Catholick, though never a member of any particular church; we are now made members for the general, *mediante eccleſia particulari*, but it is not neceſſary abſolutely, as appears by primitive and apoſtolical practiſe, nor now. But a particular church as ſuch, is to Catholick memberſhip, but as a part of the catholick, and acts the power of the catholick. The leſſer cannot give the greater; the Major is clear, catholick power ſuppoſeth ſome anſwerable ſubject of power catholick, *quoad receptionem* as well as *quoad diſpenſationem.*

4. Such as have right to receive ordinances in all churches, are indued with right as catholick members. Members of Particular churches, have immediate right to receive ordinances in all churches. Members do not receive in other churches as made members of every church in which they receive, nor as members of any particular church neceſſarily. Particular memberſhip as ſuch, gives not power or priviledge catholick, as hath been ſhewed. A members priviledge depends on church power. Ordinances are both diſpenced and received by church-power. A particular church power, as ſuch, cannot give catholick right, nor is neceſſary thereto.

5. They that have immediate right to the Lords Supper have immediate right to ordinances. Catholick members have immediat right to the Lords Supper. The minor is true, all members have right as catholick members, and though of no particular church, as hath been ſhewed; all communicants are confirm'd to be of one body as catholick members. 1 *Cor.* 10. 16, 17.

16, 17. As all christians are baptized and grafted into one body catholick, and visible, as well as into any particular church, so are they grafted into one body catholick, as well as into any particular church at the Lords table; all christians are feasted at the Lords table, and baptized as catholick members, partly: not onely as particular members. *Paul* is confirm'd to be one of the body together with the *Corinthians*, and *Paul* was onely a catholick member, and confirmed a member only of the catholick body. One may be a catholick member and not a member of a particular church, though not a member of a particular, but he must also be a catholick member; Now if *Paul* was a catholick member onely, and had right as a catholick member only, then other catholick members might receive also as catholick, though only catholick members together with *Paul*.

6. *Disciples* though no members of particular churches have immediate right to ordinances. Catholick members are such disciples, the major is true. It is enough if one be a disciple, for the enjoying of baptisme, Mat. 28. 29. This text doth not limit baptisme by membership in some particular church, nor any other text elsewhere, therefore it is enough to be christs Disciple, and to be a disciple visibly requireth at the most but a profession of being Christ scholar in the way of faith, and an implicit acceptance of the church by him that baptizeth; according as the Minister baptizing maketh known his intention to baptize a professor, so he imployeth the churches acceptance of the profession.

7. Our

7. Our consociation is a church ordinance, catholick members have immediate right to consociate into church fellowship, the major is true, that ordinance which doth depend on church power is a church ordinance; consociation doth depend on church power, the minor is true, because members consociated into church fellowship, do act by the power of the catholick church as catholick members, for so far they have being and opperation from the catholick church. Operation flows from being, and both being and operation flow from the same efficients. Particular churches are members of the catholick church, therefore they do act by the power of the catholick church. The church is compared to the body of a Man, and to an Olive tree, and an inferior member in the body or branch in a tree, doth act by an antecedent power of some principal members in the body, or by a power pre-existing in the root of a tree. The power of the universal church was given to the Apostles from Christ the head, and by them as principall members diffused into particular churches. The power of the universall was in the Apostles intensively. A particular church hath the power of Christ in the apostles, the power of the universal church, and the consociation of members thereby, for its causes. The catholick church, or *Jerusalem* which is from above, as the mother of us all, Its power did exist in Christ, in the apostles, before it self was in being. The greater can give the lesser, though the lesser can not give the greater.

Eighthly, What right non-members have to church-ordinances belonging to non-members, such right catholick members, have to ordinances belonging to members. Non-members have immediate right to some

ſome ordinances, as to the preaching of the Goſpel, and to admiſſion upon ſutable profeſſion of the Goſpell. A miniſterial preaching is a church ordinance. Apoſtles and all elders have commiſſion to preach to all Nations, *Mat.* 28. 19.

Ninthly, The members of the church which doth derive church priviledges to particular churches, have immediate right to ordinances, The catholick church doth ſo. The major is true becauſe of the rule, *de omni per ſe.* Fire is immediatly hot as the firſt ſubject of heat, even every ſparke of fire, And the more any thing doth partake of fire, the more it prtakes of heat alſo. The minor is true, becauſe members of particular Churches, have right in all churches from the catholick. They that act by catholick power, have their being from catholick power ſo farre. The church catholick is formally a church, and therefore fromally indued with power.

Tenthly, Members that have immediate right to baptiſme, have immediate right to church ordinances. Catholick members have ſuch right. *Cornelius* the Jaylor, *Lydia*, and ſuch like were baptized imediately only as catholick members. The Apoſtles would not or could not baptize them but that they had right thereto.

Object. *Theſe and ſuch like were baptized into the Jewiſh church.*

Anſw. Not ſo, 1. *Cornelius* was no proſelite circumciſed, *Act.* 11. 3. 2. The Jaylor was an heathen. 3. The Apoſtles had left the Jewiſh church by Gods appointment, becauſe they were not in a viſible church ſtate, at that time all that would not be baptized were excluded from the Chriſtian church, *Mark.* 16. 16. *Matth.*

*Matth.*28.19. 4. The Christian church was the only church, *Act.* 2.47. All that were baptized were added to the church as not being of the church before. 5. When *Paul* wrote to the *Galathians*, the Jewish church was *Hagar*, and by the same reason, when they began to baptize into the Christian church, *Gal.*4.25. 6. Gods order doth not permit separation from a church, while it holds the fundamentalls, nor presently upon its rejection of fundamentalls. This were schisme. 7. The apostles did baptize Jews into the christian church, yea all both Jews and Gentiles, *Act.* 2.47. According to this text the christian church was the only church, else Jews had not been added to the church but only confirmed at the most, because they were of the Jewish church before baptisme. 8. The church of Christ is distinguished from the Jews, as such, 1 *Cor.* 10.23. 9. Jews as such were cut off from the church, *Ro.* 11.17. The church that was persecuted by the Jews was the only church, else it would have been said that one part of the church persecuted the other, *Act.* 8.1,2.& 5.11. It is not said that the Christian church only was persecuted, or that the Jews were baptized into the Christian church only. 10. Christians were all the church, and so distinguished from Jewes in *Jerusalem*, Act. 5.11.

11. Those that were baptized into the church without necessary dependence upon particular churches have immediate right to ordinances. Christians were so baptized, 1 *Cor.* 12.13. admittance to baptisme made members or disciples explicitly on the churches part, *Mat.* 28.19. *Mar.* 16.16. *Act.* 2.38,47. and 8.36. and 9.16. and 16.15. And the forenamed were admitted to Baptisme, though members of no particular church.

12. Those that are admited to all ordinances with-

out neceſſary dependence on membership in ſome particular church they have immediate right. All viſible members are ſo admitted, 1 *Cor.* 10. 17. *Paul* was ſo admitted, and conſequently others might be ſo admitted at leaſt. And it hath been ſhewed that they were baptized into the catholike body, and ſet at the Lords table in the way of catholick communion as catholick members. Beſides a particular member is excomunicated out of all churches; for he is delivered out of Chriſts Kingdome into ſatans Kingdome, 1 *Cor.* 5. 5. This muſt be effected by catholick power, and may be without dependence on particular church power.

13. Viſible members of the body of Chriſt, have immediate right to ordinances; Catholike members are ſuch, ſuch as receive the ſeales are viſible in acting viſibly, 1 *Cor.* 10. 17. and 12. 13. Members of a particular church diſſolved by perſecution, remain viſible members as being never cut off from Chriſts body, from Chriſt the head. A member of a corporation diſſolved, is not excluded from being a member of the kingdome.

14. They that are under *Iſraels* covenant, are viſible and catholick members of the body of Chriſt, and have imediate right to ordinances; ſo are all chriſtians, *Epheſ.* 2. 12, 19. The apoſtle makes *Iſraels* covenant, and our covenant the ſame for ſubſtance, and aſſerts all Chriſtians by vetue thereof free deniſons of the city of God, *ver.* 12. *Rom.* 11. 17. The covenant is no where changed to us in this reſpect.

15. That church which is the mother of all believers hath members which have immediate right to ordinances,

nances, such is the catholick, *Gal.* 4. 26. The major is true, because it is a mother, and so must have children, and will own all visible Christians for her children, and such as are members of no particular church: The Apostles had the same power and priviledge in all churches, as soon as they were Apostles, and therefore were not members of a particular church in specialty.

16. The members of that church which hath ordinances immediatly, have immediate right; the catholick church hath ordinances immediately, *Ezek.* 43. 11, 12. This text affirmeth that the catholick church hath ordinances and no other text forceth to distinguish and interpret it of having ordinances mediatly by vertue of particular churches only; Besides that Church is a description of the primitive church, which was one catholick body compounded of Jews and Gentiles together, and which had ordinances immediatly by the Apostles, 1 *Cor.* 12. 13. *Act.* 2. 47.

17. Such as have right to ordinances and are by no Scripture denyed immediate right, have immediate right; catholick members receive the seals by right, 1 *Cor*, 10. 11. and 12. 13.

18. They that are visibly in covenant have immediate right; catholick members are visibly in covenant: The major is proved by *Gen.* 17. 7. *Rom.* 9. 4. The minor is true, for members of a visible church are visibly in covenant, and catholik members are visible members of a visible church, 1 *Cor.* 10. 17. and 12. 13. *Ephes.* 2. 19. they that do receive the visible seales as catholick members are visible as such.

19. Such as have like right to ordinances as the Apostles, have immediate right to ordinances: catho-

lick members have like right. The Apoſtles had right by catholick memberſhip. Apoſtles were not ſo members of one church in ſpecialty, as not to be members of others by like reaſon. They were catholick elders, and therefore well might be catholick members: memberſhip doth give right to ordinances, as hath been ſhewed.

20. Power in catholick Elders immediatly to diſpenſe ordinances, argueth priviledg in catholick members of like extent. Catholick elders have power immediatly to diſpenſe ordinances, *Mat.* 28. 19. And all elders have this commiſſion to the end of the world, except wheren other Scriptures ſhews a difference.

21. Such as are immediatly united to Chriſt, the viſible head of the church, as ſuch, have immediate right, Catholik members are ſo united. The major is firme. They that are viſibly united to the head, are viſibly united to the body. A member in the natural body is united to the whole, if to any part. And all members in Chriſts body are united to the head immediatly. The covenant doth immediatly unite to Chriſt, and in Chriſt to the church. As one finger may ſubſiſt when the reſt are cut of, ſo a member united to Chriſt doth ſubſiſt though there were but that one (it were poſſible by providence) alone upon the earth.

22. Such as have viſible faith, have immediate right to ordinances, *Act.* 8. 37. Catholick members have viſible faith, elſe they were not viſible members. Viſible memberſhip ſuppoſeth profeſſion of faith, with acceptance on the churches part.

23. Such as have viſible repentance have immediate right, *Act.* 2. 38. Catholick members have viſible repentance. Inviſible faith doth unite to Chriſt and the myſtical

myſtical church, myſtically, viſible faith doth unite to Chriſt; and the viſible church, viſibly, as to our part when we covenant with Chriſt by faith, we do implicitly covenant with the church. A viſible church is ſuch a one as is intelligible by the help of ſence. A viſible member is ſuch a one as is intelligible by the help of ſenſe. A particular church hath for its efficients, the law of Chriſt, the conſent of the univerſall, and conſociation, and a formall terme reſulting from theſe, is a right to diſpenſe and partake of church ordinances, why ſhould not the power of the catholick church be as effectual to conſtitute a member, in the way of regular profeſſion, as to compleat a particular church in the way of conſociation? Catholick elders were complete elders, though only catholick, why ſhould not catholick members, though only catholick, be complete members, the power of the catholick church is complete, without the power of a particular church. *Primũ in omni genere, dat et non recipit*, why ſhould not catholick elders and members alſo as ſuch be complete. The temple in *Ezek.* 43. 11. hath its ordinances and officers, and there is no need to diſtinguiſh of its having ſuch furniture mediatly. Its firſt patterne, the materiall temple had immediate ſervice in it. A councell without authority, cannot neceſſarily oblige to external obedience either active or paſſive, nor with authority without ſome catholick power, or new conſociation, & the apoſtles had the power of a councel, without neceſſary dependance on particular churches.

Object. *Iſrael was a nationall church, therefore membership in Iſrael was not catholick.*

Anſ. The temple was catholick for all members in the world, in caſe they would be ſubject to the ordinances of God in being circumciſed. 2. *Jeruſalem* was catho-

catholick for all such proselytes. 3. The covenant was catholick to entertain all nations, it being the same in substance with the Christian and Gospell covenant both visibly and invisibly. It was catholick in substance, though national in circumstances, in some Jewish priviledges in the land of *Canaan*. It was catholick in respect of temple ordinances. 4. *Israel* was a pattern of the whole Gentile church, and church christian, *Ezek.*43. 11. *Rev.*11.1.

Object. *One church in particular may be called the church by a* Synecdoche generis, *or many churches either, by an Enallage.*

Answ. 1. What need of fleeing to figures. 2. The catholick church is expresly called one body, *Genus est unum tantum rationæ.* And where is found an Enallage in such a definite expression. 3. If all churches be called one body and church visible; why should we not give it church power, as well as to a particular church, because so called. 4. Consider the reasons for a visible politick church. 5. It is evident that by the church, is not meant any one particular somtimes, nor yet all particular churches as such. *Paul* is said to persecute the church. *Act.* 8. 3. And *Paul* persecuted actually more churches then one, in tentionally all. The *Corinthians* are said to be baptized into one body with *Paul.* And the *Corinthians* were not baptized with *Paul* into all particular churches as such, nor yet into any one as such, as a particular church, 1 *Corinthy.* 12. 13.

Object. *Elders are set in the church by election but elders are not set in the catholick by election.*

Answ. 1. Apostles were not set in the church by the

the election of the Church. 2. All elders so far as they are elected by particular churches, are also elected to be catholick elders, *Mat.* 28. 19. 3. All members are admitted also to be catholick members, 1 *Cor.* 12. 13. and 10. 17. Particular churches do so act by the power and consent of the universall.

Object. *where are any catholick officers distinct from the particular?*

Answ. 1 Christ is a catholick visible head, like the high priest in *Israel.* 2. All elders as united, and as ordained by the the power and consent of the catholick; The same priest and Levits might administer in the temple, which did teach and govern in particular cities and Synagogues. The Princes of the tribes united, had power over all *Israel.* 3. The Apostles were as a standing catholick counsell like the great synedrion in *Jerusalem.* The more united power is devolued upon any one, the more power of office is derived to him.

Object. *Elders cannot act in a particular church but at the pleasure of the particular church as catholick elders. Elders are not partiall or occasionall elders.*

Anf. 1. It is granted that elders may teach and administer the seals out of their own in other churches. In this respect they are occasionall and partall. And act thus as elders, though at the pleasure of other churches. 2. One elder may act only at the pleasure of his own particular Church, if there be a presbytery there. The presbytery may have cause to restrain or silence one elder in part or in whole. 3. united power may give any one elder right to preach and act in another

ther church beſides his own without asking any leave. 4. The reaſon why leave is to be asked ariſeth from the Juriſdiction of all particular churches within themſelves appointed by Chriſt for the defenſe of each congregation againſt all inferior or æquall power without it ſelf and not in oppoſition to ſuperior power in the catholick church.

Object. *A catholick individuall integrall, being* ſpecies ſpecialiſſima *cannot be cauſall to a particular church.*

Anſw. The ſame univerſall cannot be cauſall to any one particular church conſidered as a preſent part of it.

But the catholick church that exiſted before Chriſt came, had a power to aggregate the gentiles to it ſelf after Chriſt came, A mother hath a power cauſall to the produceing of children, and yet is not a mother but by having children produced. And power to procreate children, doth vertually contain in it po wer to govern children, and *Jeruſalem* which is from above is the mother of us all, *Gal.*4.

Object. *The Apoſtles were ſet in the church at* Jeruſalem *inſpecial.*

Anſw. In reſpect of habitation for a time but not in reſpect of ſpecial incorporation or memberſhip. They as apoſtles were diſjoyned from particular churchs in point of ſpecial memberſhip. And they had their commiſſion before there was any particular church as Chriſtian conſtituted at *Jeruſalem*, ſuppoſe many catholick members coexiſting with the Apoſtles, though there was no particular church, yet the Apoſtles power in reference to thoſe members, may be denominated church power formally catholick. Beſides power ariſeth from Chriſt

Christ mission or commision, not from the actual existence of its object. And Christ sent the Apostles or gave them their commision to be catholick elders, to make disciples and Churches before any was made in distinction from the Jewish church. And therefore the apostles namely the eleven at least were invested with catholick power formally in reference to their mission and commision from Christ. Before there was any catholick church exhisting in particular churches or in any particular church. A sheepard may be a sheepard by contract before he hath any flock. A pastor indeed is not a pastor in relation to a flock without a flock, but yet he may be a pastor without a flock, in relation to his mission or ordination from Christ. Catholick church power did exist in members, before the universall church did formally exist in particular churches, to wit in Christ the head, and also in the Apostles as principall members under Christ. The Apostles were the fountaines of all church power and were supreme upon earth, and therefore had catholick power to enact and derive according to the occasions of the church in its increase. A visible church covenant if catholick, is essentially the visible covenant of grace, A visible church covenant referring to a particular church as such is accidentally, the covenant of grace. A particular church covenant is an adjunct of the covenant of grace. The covenant of grace doth contain all duties in it, therefore church dutyes and church fellowship.

The constitution and division of particular Churches.

Prop. 3.

A Particular church may consist of many congregations, though they have severally their elders and church power within themselves.

1. Here is no rule to define a particular congregation. 2. The church of the Jews was nationall containing many Synagogues. 3. We are ingrafted into the covenant of the Jewish church, and the institution of Christ, doth not forbid a nationall church, *Rom.*11.17. *Ephes.* 2. 22. 4. The church of *Jerusalem* that had so many apostles, elders, and members in it was many congregations for the ordinary: Else how could so many exercise their ministry there. 5. It is requisite to edification and the honour of Christ. Poor and little congregations cannot maintaine such as are able to carry on Church affairs sutably and compleatly. 6. When all congregations repared to *Titus* as one center of government in *Crete*, there was one church consisting of many congregations. Many corporations may have their peculiar government, and yet be subordinate to the city government also. 7. There is one catholick church of all churches; and consequently there may be one of many. It is a breach of no rule for prudence directed

rected by circumstances to define the quantity of churches. 8. By church, *Mat.*18.17. cannot be meant only one particular congregation of Elders, because that rule directed christians to go and tell an Apostle as indued with compleat church power in himself. Therefore by church there is meant church power, whether in one congregation or in many, or over all. Besides *Timothy* was to receive accusations immediatly, 1 *Tim.* 5.19. Indeed the whole presbyteryof the Apostles, and so catholick church power is contained in that rule. For it concerned Apostles themselves, and an Apostle was to tell the presbytery of the Apostles, which was the catholick church power in the concrete. 8. There may be councells occasionally, and why not also constantly, or some other like consociation prudence so disposing.

*Prop.*4.

A Church having elders, or an elder in it, is only a church in specialty.

1. A church is described as indued with power, *Mat.*16.19. and 18. 17. *Rom.* 9. 4. Churches are candlesticks to hold forth light. But churches have not the keyes of doctrine or discipline without elders. A candlestick without its light doth not give light, according to these texts, a church is not essentially a church if it be not indued with power.

2. An organized body is maimed by losing

any members: destroyed, by looseing principall members.

3. *A* church in specialty is united to dispense and partake of the ordinances, and therefore is not essentialy united without such organs as are necessary to that end. Principall members are necessary to the life of a man; *A* company of Christians met together to pray is essentially a church in reference to that end, and in a large sense but not in specialty if united no otherwise.

Object. *A Church is called a church without proper elders*, *Act.* 14.

Answ. In a large sense a family, a civil meeting is a church, *And* so those company of Christians might be called churches. *And* they might have prophets to promove their meeting. *A* candlestick is a candlestick essentially without a light in it. But the question is whether they were churches indued with church power, offensive and defensive also. *Qui non sunt cum episcopo non sunt in ecclesia*, if *Cyprian* be the judge.

Object. *Churches may be described frequently by elders and yet be churches without elders, and so be described by church power, and yet be churches essentially without power*, *Acts* 14.

Answ. All will grant that power is necessary to a politick body. *And* as those texts cited do attribute power to churches, so no other do allow us to conceive a church in specialty as a body politick without power. *A* civil Society in reason is no body politick without power. *Ecclesia est plebs episcopo adjuncta. Cypr.*

Object. *Elders united are not elected by the churches as such.*

Answ.

Answ. It is suficient they are set in the church by ordination and election at first: particular churches act by the power of the catholick electing and ordaining. And all ought to submit to elders once elected and ordained in all things correspondent to their commission, which for edification as occasion and prudence requires, reacheth all persons and places according to order. All elders have a catholick power, for the baptizing of conuerts as the case requires, for the maintaining the communion of churches in both seales, so also to protect it in councells and convenient combinations. All elders have commission to admit and baptize disciples as the Apostles did, though into no particular Churches. Christ did hold lights without candlesticks and stars without sphæres in his own hand, in primitive dayes. And every Church doth elect and ordaine for the catholick, for all as occasion serves; Elders of one Church may administer the seals and preach as ministers to another Church, though not elected by it immediatly. *Polycarpus* dispensed the Lords supper at *Rome* though he was a Bishop of *Asia*.

Objection, *A combination of divers Churches, severs the parts of an elders office: ruling from teaching.*

Anſ. Elders have power to teach and baptize, *&c.* members of other Churches and yet not to excomunicate them out of Christs kingdom. And they may only teach some, never having occasion to discipline them. Yet elders united have power to teach as well as ro rule other Churches as there is cause. They may delegate any one to preach, so far their united power reacheth to command those Churches which they rule, to hear a message from God and from the eldership. And there is more office put upon one so delegated by

by united power, then he posseſseth as considered an elder of one particular Church. There is more office in an elderſhip considered collectively, then in elders singly and distributively.

Object. *Councells though an ordinance have no authority.*

Answ. 1. If they have not præceptive authority, then no obedience is required further then any one sees cause. (*a*) 2. Præceptive authority without corrective, is a sword without an edge. 3. The church in all times have owned the authority of Councels. 4. God provided a standing conucell of Apostles and other extraordinary Elders in primitive days, and the churches necessitys do call for some all along. 5. A catholick church yeilds an authoritative councel catholick, a catholick power & elderſhip *frustra datur potentia quæ non reducitur in actum.* (*b*) 6. All elders have catholick power to administer the Seales to other churches, why not also to govern them, while the integrity of Jurisdiction in particular Churches is preserved. If councells be without authority, then there is no authority to relieve a minor part in any Church. They do not bind the peccant to right the innocent, unless they Judge themselves, *sed se judice nemo reus*, suppose a member an elder, the minor part offended, and a councell Judging on the innocent side, yet if the major part doth counterjudge the councel, it being not bound to active or passive obedience, the innocent still shall suffer, without redresse from authority. If the councell denies communion to the major part, yet the innocent is not relieved. The major part may hold communion and soveraign rule, and then the innocent party must either remain destitute of ordinances, or repair to other churches. There is

a Who is bound to obey such as have no authority to command?

b according to the congregational way, there is soveraignty, impunity and liberty to sin without any redresse from authority ecclesiastical in every particular church, & now then is Christs church one Kingdome and one church in way of united power, If it be onely perfect Repub. it cannot admit every particular church as such a one.

no

no authority *in foro ecclesiastico* to interpose for help, no conscience of obedience without conscien ce of authority. The councel denies communion with submission to their several churches. If the several churches do consent, it refers only to communion in their several Churches, and the major part is all this while not denyed commu nion at home by any church authority. 8. *Israel* had its standing councel, and was a type of the Christian Church according to substance, *Rev.* 11. 1. and 21. 9. *Ezek.* 43. 11. describes the Christian Church, as Catholick, and as having Priests to Judge, in conformity to the pollicy in *Israel* for substance. 10. The policy appointed by God is far from priviledging the major part with supremacy and impunity in all particular congregations over the whole earth. Look back to *Moses* and the apostles. By Gods providence we have decrees of Apostles, and Elders in reference to churches upon record, *Act.* 15. The apostle had authority to make decrees, and they spake if we believe them, as exerting their authority, not in the way of suasion, but by imposition. Particular Churches have a divided power, not an independent power, the Catholik Church hath not lost but onely changed its councells. Every particular church though there be not opportunity alwayes to consociate, is subordinate to the power of the Catholick in other Churches. Every gate in new *Jerusalem* is subject to the whole City of God. 11. An Elder supposed in the congregationall way to have authority, leaves the people at liberty to Vote or to be neutrall, when he propounds a case to be voted; Doth not a councell much more if it be not invested with authority? 12. The major part is subject to no Church punishment if councels have no authority.

Prop.

Concerning the Power of the Church,

Prop. 1.

ELection by common members, is not essentiall to the constitution of Elders.

1. Christ sent prophets and apostles immediatly without any election by men, and he may also send elders imediately by Elders without election by members, I do not argue now a *posse ad esse*. 2. Priests and Levits descended from Priests aud Levits according to ordinance. And they were ordained without election by common members, and Priests together which levites were patterns of Gospel ministers except wherein Christs constitution makes a difference, *Ezek.* 44. 15. 3. Mission is only made essentiall *Rom.*10. 14. And mission doth exclude election by the people in its proper notion. Mission denoted an act of another to the people, election is an act of and from the people. 4. *Paul* and *Barnabas* are said to ordain Elders, *Timothy* and *Titus* are instructed to ordain Elders without any mention of the Peoples election. And we must follow such examples, as they are recorded in their proper texts unlesse other Scriptures do forbid. The word χειροτονησαντες is appropriated to *Paul* and *Barnabas*, so as properly it rather holds forth election by the extending of their own hands though

though it be set also for ordination by the imposing of them, *Act.* 14.23. 5. The apostles are supposed to chuse and ordain *Evangel.* And if they did constitute such Catholick Elders: why not others also without the necessary concurrence of the people. 6. The apostles did delegate *Timothy* and *Titus* with great power in *Ephesus* and *Creete* without the peoples election. If the apostles did thus constitute *Timothy* and *Titus* there so for a time, why may not they have fix'd them there for their whole time? This shews the peoples immediate election is not essentiall, or absolute and necessary to the constituting of Elders over themselves. 7. The constitution of deacons is attributed to the apostles, *Act.* 6.3. The original word is used for a compleat constitution of office, *Act.* 7.10. *Luk.* 12. 42. The text doth fully appropriate the collation of the office to the apostles. 8. The people have not the keyes, therefore they cannot give them, *nihil dat quod non habet.* 9. The apostles had the keyes, both to use and to give. They only had the keyes, they & their successors, therefore they & their successors can only give them, *Mat.* 16. 17. & 28.19, 20. 10. It is meet that sacred things should be transmitted from Christ by persons proportionably sacred. 11. The apostles did something in the election of *Mathias* without the concurrence of the common members of the catholick church, though he was elected for the catholick, *Act.* 1.14.

There were disciples with the Apostles at the election of Mathias. Object.

Ans. 1. There might be the seventy elders, which might act over all churches in subordination to the apostles. 2. They that cast lots may only be the apostles according to the text. 3. The common discipes were women partly, and as they are excluded from acting, so may all other common disciples. 4. It cannot be granted that common disciples, so few of the whole without

any commiſſion from the reſt, could act by way of power in the name of the catholick Church. 5. If it had been the Churches due, the Apoſtles would have given notice to the brethren elſwhere, all being concerned in it as well as thoſe then preſent. 6. If thoſe preſent acted in the way of power, or by due and neceſſary right, how came it to paſſe that thoſe which were abſent, had not right to be acquainted with the intended action. 7. It appears in concluſion, that the Apoſtles could have proceeded without thoſe common brethren preſent, as well as without thoſe many hundreds abſent, what they might together with the Apoſtles in a brotherly way upon their occaſionall preſence, do unto the promoveing of the election, I cannot determine.

Object. *The Apoſtles ſent* Timothy *and* Titus *with ſuch over-ruling power.*

Anſw. Then we have the Apoſtles example for the chuſing of elders in ſuch a manner without the people, as well as for the chuſing of deacons by the people.

Object. Timothy *and* Titus *were Evangeliſts.*

Anſw. But if the Apoſtles had the ſame power to chuſe, ordaine and impoſe extraordinary elders upon the *Grecian* Churches without their election, or not asking their conſent, why might they not alſo have ſent ordinary elders in like manner? It doth not appear that ſuch extraordinary elders as evangeliſts had abſolute power in all churches diſtributively from their office.

Object. Timothy *and* Titus *had power where ever they came being once elected and ordained.*

Anſw. And why had the apoſtles power to ordaine them

them without the election of the churches, and not to ordain deacons or ordinary elders? And where appears the unlimmitted commiſſion of the evangeliſts in an abſolute way? It is clear, they were ſubordinate to the apoſtles. And though extraordinary elders united had power to make decrees with the apoſtles, *Act.* 15. yet it is a queſtion whether ſuch ſingly had abſolute power in all churches from their office.

Object. *The church hath the keyes virtually though not formally.*

Anſw. The ſacred office of elders which is repreſented by the keyes, is originally in Chriſt, and by him conveyed to the apoſtles immediately, and by them to ſucceeding elders mediately, ſo that it never comes into the peoples hands, they have not the keyes virtually by Chriſts inſtitution, therefore they have not the keyes virtually.

Object. *All men are naturally free, and the ſubjection of themſelves to another, gives another authority over them.*

Anſw. Since ſinne and death do take away rightfull Lords & fathers, ſome are naturally free in civil policy: But none are naturally free in reſpect of Chriſts mediatory lordſhip. All are abſolutly ſubject to Chriſt before converſion unwillingly, after converſion willingly. And therfore they are ſubject to Chriſts diſpoſe, & in reſpect of voluntary ſubjection alſo, all becomes Chriſts diſciples. And Chriſt requirs all to be ſubject to his miniſters, that are his diſciples. Meer ſubjection may make a civil governour, but not give ſacred orders.

Object. *Chriſt doth permit all to diſpoſe of themſelves under what miniſters they pleaſe.*

Anſw. Chriſt would have elders to carry themſelves

as fathers to children, and as brethren to brethren, and so to content disciples so farre as it is reasonable and tollerable. And becauſe it is for edification that people ſhould aprove of their elders, therefore their conſent may be asked and desired, and elders ſhould not be impoſed on a people, unleſſe there be great and ſufficient cauſe for ſuch extremity.

That which *Grotius* ſaith of a civill ſociety, may be here applyed to the eccleſiaſtick. *Nequis in civitate maneat invitus, & libertatis fundamentum eſt, ſui quemque juris & dimittendi & retinendi eſſe dominum. Gregatim diſcedi non poſſe ſatis expeditum eſt ex neceſſitate finis. Nam ſi id liceat, civilis ſocietas ſubſiſtere non poſſit. Nec liceat ſingulis ſi ſocietatis interſit.*

Object. *The brethren did elect the deacons.*

Anſ. The apoſtles endeavoured to content them being offended in an office concern'd their eſtates about which men are ſo apt to be offended. 2. The chuſing of deacons is not an example for chuſing of elders. 3. They did not vote whether they ſhould chuſe or not, the apoſtles commanded them to chuſe. 4. They did not vote whether they ſhould chuſe ſeven fewer or more, the apoſtles commanded and preſcribed the number. 5. They did not vote at all ſo farre as is expreſſed, but only named perſons which the apoſtles accepted. They preſented them as at the election of *Mathias*, and the common members did not vote there as hath been proved, *Act.* 1. 23. They did not vote there with the apoſtles, for they did what they did as without the apoſtles, elſe why is it ſaid that they ſet them before the apoſtles. They preſented them to the apoſtles not with them. The apoſtles

apostles did not put it to vote, but only bid them consider of some meet men which they naming wished to present themselves. 6. The apostles are said to reserve power of constituting them in the office, *v.* 5. 7. The apostles had power to refuse such as they thought unmeet. *Timothy* had power to deny imposition of hands. 8. They had power to chuse others without the people, had there been cause, as well as to prescribe the number, command the action, and chuse Evangelists without the people. If the brethren voted, the apostles did not vote with them, nor bid them vote, nor asked their vote, nor is it said that they did vote, and why should not the apostles vote with them, or ask their votes?

Object. *The apostles might have power, which other elders do come short of in election.*

Answ. But whence do we plead the power of the people in election, if this example of the Apostles doth not yeild it, Besides, apostles and elders have the same commission further then it is limitted by consequences, and some text or other, *Mat.* 28. 19, 20.

(a) Cyprian elsewhere doth affirme that ministers are constituted by ordination, and that he himself in elections did but consult his clergy and laity touching the merits and manners of those that were nominated, as providing for sufficient testimony and satisfaction from all, and to all whom it concerned, *Epist.* 27. & 33. & 67.

Object. *The people did elect their Bishops in primitive dayes about two hundred and forty years after Christ.* Cyprian *doth assert it strenuously,*

Answ. 1. *Cyprian* usually was *Vehemens orator.* 2. It is granted in way of prudence but not as virtually essentiall and absolutly necessary in all cases. 3. It is clear that *Cyprian* did ordain ministers of all sorts, an elder or *sacerdos*, as he speaketh both without the presence and consent also of the people. (*a*) *Numidicus* was thus ordained, *Epist.* 35. 4. Bishops destitute of apostolical gifts, power, calling, civil protection, and so depending upon the people for honour and maintenance

Election doth chiefly consecrate the people to edification, but the eldership in point of constitution more then the people, *Cyp. Epist.* 68. 4.

tenance and in times of schisme, faction, and persecution, might easily make more of the peoples election then Christs institution afforded. 5. The people might easily incroach in this respect. And it seemes they did encroach unto tumultuous & bloody elections, till Christian Emperours saw it necessary to restrain them. Hence *Nazianzen* affirmed that the chusing of Bishops, either wholly or chiefly belonged to the Clergy in *Epitaphio patris*. 6. I find not that the church did ever count popular election essential, neither doth the institution of Christ appear for any such thing.

In that I have formally supposed popular election for much necessary, and imposition of hands for little necessary, I now humbly impute it to my weakneſſe in Judgement, as well as to my education, amongst such as were for the congregationall way.

Prop. 2.

IT is unlawfull for common members to ordain elders. 1. To dispence that which is religiously sacred by institution, belongs not to common members. But to ordain elders is to dispence that which is religiously sacred by divine institution. The major is clear from Gods ordinance. God appointed sacred persons under Law and Gospell to dispence things ceremoniously and sacramentally holy. The minor is true, because ordination doth dispence a sacred of-

office, or faculty to dispence the seales and all ordinances, either ordination or election doth dispence the sacred office, not election, therefore ordination? 2. It was unlawfull under the law, for the people to ordain Priests and Levites, and elders, and deacons are their successors, and represented by them. And the institution of Christ doth not make any such difference in respect of ordination. 3. If the brethren had power to constitute or ordain elders, why did they not impose hands sometimes with the Apostles, more might have imposed hands, besides *Paul* and *Barnabas*, *Act.* 14. For the exerting of power, there was as much cause to ordain as to name persons in elections. But *Paul* and *Barnabas* only are said to impose hands, or stretch out hands, *Act.* 14. 23. The Priest and Levites were types of elders and deacons, in a generall sence concerning their administration? Why not also concerning their constitution? And the Priests and Leivets were constituted by propagation and ordination from Priests and Levites, so elders were propagated from the approbation and ordination of the Apostles as spirituall fathers. Christ is the great patriarch and the *Apostles* are patriarchs under him. 4. The *Ark* is called the figure or type of baptism, so Priests are types of elders. 5. It lessens the religious esteem of the Sacred office to make it so common, as to arise from the common people. 6. It lessens the religious esteem of the holy ordinances, to make them so common in the rise and constitution of the elders which are separated to dispence them. 7. It lessens the religious esteem of the holy and great God, to make such as approach so neer to him in dispensing holy things, no otherwise

Ef. 62. 6 & 66. 21. Ezek. 44. 15. 1. Pet. 3. 21.

sacred

ſacred then as conſecrated by common members. It hath not been lawfull for any, but ſacred perſons to ſweep his houſe, or ſo much as to touch holy things under the Law. 8. I find no rule nor example in Gods word affording common members a licenſe to ordain. 9. It was never known in the Church of God till of late years, it is the preſumption of this age, *vivi pervenimus illuc, ſed conſuetudo eſt optima juris interpres.* 10. According to the congregationall principles an elder being elected is eſſentially an elder, and ſhould he not then be fitter to pray, bleſſe, conſecrate and pronounce ſentence, then the common members.

Elders are meet organs to bleſſe the people, not the people to bleſſe the elders in publick worſhip and in way of power. *Chriſtiani ſumus propter nos, paſtores ſumus propter vos. Auguſtin. Beza* allows the people only an implicite conſent in election it ſelf, *Epiſt.* 65. and 67. and 13.

Object. *However the people may not ordain, yet it muſt be granted that they ought in way of conveniency, to elect perſons before elders to ordaine them,* Act. 6. 3.

Anſw. When Miniſters are ordained from amongſt a ſociety, as the Deacons were in *Jeruſalem,* It is meet that whereſoever elders are ordained, that there ſhould be ſufficient teſtimony given concerning them by ſuch as are preſent, yet the Apoſtles did chuſe *Evangeliſts* and ſent them to officiate, where they were not elected, and there may be cauſe for catholick or ſuperiour power to place elders where they were not elected, and that without their conſent alſo, that are intolerably unreaſonable, If *Diotrephes* and

and his flock did reject *John's* messengers, *John* could constrain them to due obedience contrary to their consent, place another in *Diotrophes* his room.

Object. *A pastour and his flock are relates, and therefore a pastor is constituted by his flock.*

Answ. There must be somthing to præcede the relation as a foundation thereof. And this is not necessarily mutuall consent, but may be mission of a pastor to a people by supream authority. Besides a pastor may be a pastor in respect of his pastorall office, in respect of the catholick Church, though he have no particular flock or relation to a particular flock in special, a pastor is a pastor *sine titulo* essentially, if the title refers to a particular church in special. And every elder is made a pastor for the world without, both without and against their consent. If before election in the congregationall way, the people have the power in their own hands, yet after election the elder is essentially an elder, and therefore not to be ordained by the people as greater in point of election. That is congruous to the office, to one or some in office. Ordination is an act both of Order and Jurisdiction also, naturally power should have been derived by inheritance from *Adam.* It doth now proceed from Christ by ordination, all a long by fathers, not otherwise then by sacerdotall descent in a line of succession.

Prop. 3.

COmmon members may not govern by ſuffrage together with their elders. *Præter electionem plebis nullas eſſe partes in eccleſiaſtico regimine cenſemus, Chamior conſeſſus ſeninorum eſt judicium eccleſiæ, Calvin, certum eſt nullam ſtatum aut pagi, aut vici, aut urbis, aut religionis alicujus magis obnoxium eſſe turbis quam democraticum, Beza. Epiſt.* 83. It is no where attributed to the church, as may farther appear in anſwer to objections afterwards. 2. Before the leviticall prieſthood it was in the hands of Maſters, Fathers, and Magiſtrates. 3. By poſitive law, God placed it in Prieſts and Levites, by natural Law it was in civil governors. 4. God foretold that it ſhould be carryed on by elders as repreſented by Prieſts and Levits, *Ezek.* 44. 24. 5. Chriſt gave the Keyes of government all of them to the Apoſtles and their ſucceſſours *Mat.* 16. & 18. & 28. *John* 20. 21, 22. 6. The Apoſtles did govern without the people, the Apoſtles had the line to direct, the read to meaſure, the rod to correct in their hands. 7. The Apoſtles doctrine doth appropriate government to the elders, *Act.* 20. 1 *Theſ.* 5. 12. *Heb.* 13. 8, 17. 2 *Cor.* 2. 3. and 10. 6. 1 *Pet* 5. 2. 1 *Tim.* 3. 5. and 4. 11. and 5. 17. 1 *Cor.* 4. 19, 21. *Tit.* 15. 8. The elders are fathers, leaders, ſhephards, rulers, Biſhops. All theſe titles do aſſert government in the elders obedience in the people. 9. The Apoſtles give cautions to *Timothy Titus*, and ſuch like about government not to the people. 10. Our Saviour in his laſt letters, write

writes to the angels concerning government. *Rev.*2. and 3. And in the laſt propheſie, the Apoſtles are deſcribed as foundation ſtones, and all elders as ſtewards and governours, and as inveſted with the Keyes of his holy City new *Jeruſalem*, *Rev.* 21. 11. The people have not the Keys by ſucceſſion, nor by aſſignation, nor any way apparent from Chriſt, therefore there is no rule nor reaſon to give the Keyes to common members. 12. The ſpeciall conſtitution of elders ſhews that they have ſpeciality of power. They have the office, they are ſeparated and conſecrated by ſolemne ordinance, they are gifted, the ſeat of wiſdome is the ſeat of government. 13. They are in Chriſts ſtead. 14. They ſucceed the apoſtles. 15. Why elſe are there ſo many ruling elders in one Church. It is ſuperfluous to have ſo many ſpeakers in a parliament, or moderators, or cryers in a court. *16.* Chriſt requires punctuall and ſolemne order in his church, and therefore excludeth women from ſpeaking there. But how can ſolemne order be expected, when the youth and the unwiſe ſhall have equall power to determine caſes with their Elders. 17. Thoſe texts that do give Elders power to rule as moderators, do alſo yield them more. 18. Elders may deny the Lords ſupper in way of corrective authority, why not to exerciſe authority over the church in other diſpenſations? The Keys are not divided between elders, much leſſe between elders and people. 19. To give the people the caſting power, is to make the Miniſters like blind mens boyes, to ſet the cart before the horſe. 20. How can thouſands govern together without clamors? How ſhould they attend? How ſhould their hands and voyces

Conſilium aliquando rapiendum non capiendum uti fecit Themiſtocles.

voyces be numbered upon every occasion? How can poor men provide for their families, if conscience obligeth them to attend the numerous cases, that arise in populous Churches. 21. The Church is expressely bid do obey their elders *Heb.* 13. 24. All elders have the same commission to teach, admit, baptize, as the Apostles, *Mat.* 28. 19, 20. The angells do open and shut the gates, *Rev.* 21. The four living creatures do draw the wheels, *Ezek.* 1. According to Gods ordinance in *Israel* the government of the Synagogues, Courts, Cities, Temple, was by Priests, Levites and Elders.

Object. *The Keyes are given to Peter as a believer.*

Answ. They are given to *Peter* as an apostle directly. 1. *Peter* is here opposed to the Church of believers. 2. What proof, what shew is there in the text that *Peter* did represent believers or the church? though our Saviour had mentioned the Church, yet he saith expressely, I will give the Keys, not unto it, but unto *Peter.* 3. Something is here proper to *Peter*, because he is here described, as in other places, to be a foundation stone in way of office.

Object. *This is proper to* Peter *in respect of believers.*

Answ. Our Saviour seemes to reward *Peters* singular confession, more then common believers, in making him a foundation stone, and giving him the Keyes, more then the other apostles, in expressing himself thus to *Peter* at present, and not to the rest. 4. Our Saviour was wont to tell his apostles how he would prefer them. 5. It was office of stewardship, and of sacred order which is formally distinct from

from any power imaginable in the fraternity, and therefore could not be given to the fraternity alone, nor to *Peter* and the fraternity together, unleſſe in termes formally diſtinct. The Keyes are a badge of office, Chriſt himſelf is ſo deſcribed, *Rev.* 3. 7. *Eſay* 22.22. 6. The apoſtles practice proves it, they only had the keyes for to carry and uſe alſo, in diſtinction from believers in common. 7. The parrallel texts, *Mat.* 18. & 28. do declare the meaning of our Saviour here. 8. Meer confeſſion according to the congregationall way, is not confederation. And a confeſſion doth not give a believer the Keyes, if ſeparated from confederation. 9. Confeſſion is not ſo circumſtantiated, as to intimate ſo much as an implicite confederation. 10. *Peter* had the Keys given him ſome where, as an apoſtle *& œconomus eccleſiæ*, and is it not likely he received them by this text, as well as by any other. 11. This text ſo underſtood giveth the Keyes to the church ſo, as to ſet the Church above *Peter* and the Apoſtles, as well as above other Elders: therefore it doth not give the Keyes to the Church.

1 Cor. 4.1. Eſa. 9. 6. Rev. 1.18, 9, 1.

Object. *If the Keyes were given to* Peter *directly, how to other Elders.*

Anſw. By conſequence, all elders do ſucceed the Apoſtles in the eſſence of government. The Apoſtolicall office as including. 1. *An* illimitted commiſſion, 2. Infallible direction. 3. Miraculous opperation. 4. Immediate calling or miſſion, was accidental, beſides *Peter* had the keyes to give or derive to other elders aſwell as to uſe in the church.

Object. *Power of juriſdiction is given to the church*, Mat. 18.

Anſw.

Answ. By church is meant the presbytery or church power in the elders. 1. Our saviour speaks of a church as then known, And church power was then known to be in the elders. And the assembly of elders was a church essentially in a large sense. The originall word notes only an assembly in its notation, and also is used for any assembly, for a civil assembly, *Act.19.* Num.25.32. Besides the *O.T.* is wont to speak of the assembly or church of elders, *Numb.35. Psa.* 82.1. and 107.32. 2. Those Words (let him be as a heathen) do shew that our saviour alludes to the Jewish church. 3. Binding and loosing is applyed to the apostles. 4. The church in the text is two or three, sometimes that may be a presbitery like the lesser Synedrion in the cities of the Jewes, but it is not a congregationall church. 5. It would render the rule imperfect for ordinary proceeding, to assert that all cases are immediately to come to the congregation, if we understand the congregation of common members by the church. 6. It is contrary to parallel texts before mentioned. 7. The power is no where given to the whole congregation of members. 8. It is contraty to the apostles power and practise, the rule concernes the apostles as well as others. Our saviour speaks to them personally. The apostles being offended did not go to the people. The apostles offending were not brought to the people: members offending were brought to the apostles, not to the people, whole churches offending were subject to the apostalical rod. The apostles did not teach christians to go to the whole congregation of members. The apostles censured some persons without particular churches voting, and threatned whole churches. And if church here is not the congregation of common members as to the apostles, then not

not as to other elders, this text gives no more power to the whole congregation in respect of common members then of the apostles. 9. This text doth seem to intend church power by church, whether in an assembly, or in one elder, because one apostle, may be the church. An offender might be brought to one apostle, witnesse the incestuous person, And though it be a figurative sense, or Metonomy of the subject for the accident, yet it must be attended when the text cannot otherwise be interpreted. And it is frequently found in scripture. *Exod.*22.18. *Deut.* 17. 6. 7. and 19. 13. and 20. 10. We use to say of an Ambassadour he is gone to *France* or *Spaine*, meaning to the state or King of *France* or *Spaine*.

Object. Act. 15. *The apostles write in the churches name.*

Answ. 1. They præfix their own name. 2. They do not mention the brethren at *Jerusalem*, as having power to make decrees over other churches. The common brethren had no more right to joyne with the apostles in making decrees over other churches, then the citizens of *London* have to joyne with the parliament in making lawes over the kingdome of *England*. 3. The church of *Antioch* sent to the apostles and elders onely, as the text expresseth. 4. There was speciall cause to name the whole church at this time, because the authours of the controversie did spring out of the Church. It tended to quench the controversie, that the whole church consented to the contrary truth. 5. Its certain the apostles could make decrees without the church. These decrees are called the decrees of the Apostles & elders, not of the people. And the Apostles and elders, only are said to come to gether, *v.* 6. *Paul* did ordaine by his own

his own authority, 1 *Cor.* 16. 1. and 11. 1. and 14, *&c.* what reſpect the apoſtles gave the brethren occaſionally, we alſo owe to them in like circumſtances, *propter fidem & amorem*, as *Cyprian* ſpeaketh. 6. It is ſaid the apoſtles and elders came together purpoſely, ſo that the people came occaſionally.

Object. *The Apoſtles were extraordinary Elders immediately, called and infallible, and therefore unimitable.*

Anſw. 1. The queſtion is concerning the nature of power, not of the manner of coming by it, ſucceeding high prieſts had the ſame power as *Aaron*, though not ſo immediately called. The kings of *Iſrael* had the ſame regal power as *David*, though not called like him to the Throne. 2. Though the apoſtles were ſo extraordinary, yet it is ſuppoſed, that they were limited in ordaining elders by the peoples elections. And ſurely they gave the people their due in all acts connaturall to membership. 3. What the Apoſtles did as Elders, belongs to all elders. The ſame reaſon yields the ſame rule. *A quatenus ad omne valet conſequentia.* 4. All elders have the ſame commiſſion, further then it is limited by comparing of one rule with another, *Mat.* 28. 19, 20. 5. Succeſſion affords all elders like power to the Apoſtles, further then it is circumſcribed by Inſtitution. 6. We argue from the apoſtles practiſe & commiſſion, for the diſpencing of the ſeals, why not for a regiment alſo. If Elders have power to baptize and to adminiſter the Lords ſupper, becauſe the apoſtles did ſo, and becauſe the apoſtles were ſent to baptize and teach together, why not alſo to admit members, and govern like them.

Object. *The Church is the ſpouſe of Chriſt, and Elders are ſervants.* *Anſw.*

An. 1. The church of the *Jews* was Christs Spouse, & the Priests Kings were her servants, & yet the people did not govern. 2 The church is under Magistrates, though she be Christs Spouse, & they be her servants. *Edicunt Reges, indicit festa Sacerdos.* 3. The Church is but figuratively the Spouse, and being constituted of many of all sorts, unmeet to govern. 4. Elders are fathers as well as servants, and members children, *Johns* little children. 5. If Elders are servants in respect of Government, they must not so much as govern with the Church. 6. The Apostles, the Angels, yea, Christ himself, were servants *finaliter*, as serving the good of the Church, not its authority: they serve the Church by ruling it; the people ought to observe Elders by obeying them. 7. *Per ordinem omnia*, Mat. 20. 25, 26. Our Saviour doth only forbid a proud affectation and dispensing of authority, for maintaining of pride rather then the profit of the Church, for he propounds his own example, though he was Lord of all, *ver.* 18.

Object. *All the* Corinthians *are said to judge, and bid to deliver to Satan.*

Answ. 1. The Text (1 *Cor.* 5.) speaks to women as well as men. Women were to mourn, to separate and to judge, to mourn for the sin and sinner, to separate from it and him, to judge it executively: And it shews not what was proper to the brethren, therefore this Text alone gives no more power to the brethren then to the sisters. 2. The Apostle wrote as he preached to men and women, to brethren and Elders promiscuously, even concerning the dispensation of the Lords Supper. And it doth not therefore follow, that common members and women have power to dispence the Lords Supper, 1 *Cor.* 11. 20.

3. This Text alone doth give no more power to Elders then to brethren, to men then to women. Have Elders, brethren, and women therefore like power? 4. This text doth admit of distinction in point of power between men and women, and consequently between Elders and brethren, though it speaks not to it, but supposeth that they knew their ranck s, according to other Scriptures. 5. All that can be concluded from this text, is the solemn declaration of the Apostles sentence by the Elders in the assembly, and the execution of it by all, both men and women. The declaration of the sentence, *ad terrorem delinquentis*, requires the solemnity of the whole congregation. 6. Brethren and the whole congregation may be said to deliver to *Satan*, and judge, because their Elders do it, the whole being taken for a part by a synecdoche, or the subject for the adjunct by a metonomy *Num.* 35. 31. *Exod.* 22. 18. *Deut.* 17. 5, 6. and 19. 13, 19. and 20, 10. 7. The elders are here meant in respect of the sentence, notwithstanding this text, and may be meant in respect of the whole sentance according to this text, It speakes no more of the elders right to declare the sentence then of other power, therefore notwithstanding this text or according to this text, they may have other power, and all power in way of preordination, as well as power to declare the sentence. *Res præjudicata in Presbyterio, defertur ad populum. Calvin*, upon this text. 8. The brethren may judge by implicite consent, not voting, mediatly by elders, not immediatly: by way of subordination and obedientially, not by way of authority, after the sentence of the elders not before it, or side by side with the elders, executively, not de-

deciſſively, not withſtanding any thing in the text. They may judge with Elders as *S*aints ſhall do with Chriſt. 9. The apoſtle intended women as well as men in other expreſſions, and proportionably in this of judging. The women were to mourn, to aſſemble, to withdraw themſelves to deny communion, ſo alſo to judge by proportion in way of approbation & executive, therfore the apoſtle intended to attribute nomore power here to men then to women. 10. Judgemens is ſometimes taken for the authoritative execution of the authoritative law and ſentence, ſo Gods puniſhing of ſinners in this life is called judgment, ſo God will judge adulterers in this life. So he judgeth thoſe without in this life, according to the text it ſelf, executive authority belongs to all independence upon authority deciſive or definitive. 1. This text doth confirme the ſubordination of the brethren, the apoſtle did prejudge, and command the excommunication of the inceſtuous perſons. Thoſe that made this perſon aſhamed were not all the congregation but many, 2. *Cor.* 4. 6. Many for the generall doth note ſome onely, not all, the apoſtle doth not aske the conſent of the brethren whether the offender ſhould be delivered up to *S*atan or not. The many did not act upon the conſent of the whole according to the text, the brethren did act in obedience to the apoſtle, 2 *Cor.* 2. 9. The *Corinthians* could not vote whether the inceſtuous perſon ought to be excommunicated, becauſe the apoſtle had determined it, and commanded it alſo, ſuch a vote had called into queſtion whether the apoſtle ſhould be obey'd. 12. Men and women were to remit and to confirme their theire love to the perſon judged upon repentance, why not alſo in the apoſtles ſenſe to

judged him impenitent, it is cleare the apostle writes both to men and women in some expressions about this person, why not in all other that are applicable according to Scripture. Men and women did also search and purge out the leven in their places and relations, to exclude women in executive judging crosseth the truth and forceth the text. 13. The apostles did write their Epistles with a jurisdictive authority, commanding, blaming, threatening, by their own authority. And Paul accordingly did prejudge in this case by way of authority and Jurisdiction and the Apostle here judged this person, asif he had been present, therefore as having absolute power without the consent of the brethren preceding. It may appear by these considerations, that what power brethren have above sisters, or what power elders have above common members, or that Brethren and elders have more power then sisters, or that elders have any more power then common brethren cannot be gathered from any thing attributed here to the Church of *Corinth.* I preserve moderation in disputable points before Zeale, yet I think I may say, that it is better to have one *Pope* then many, and to give the reynes of ambition to one then to many, to pull down a community of iniquity then a singularity. *Beza* resolves upon the Question, *non tantum periculosum, sed etiam iniquum esse, totum cœtum in suffragia mitti, Epist.* 83. A faculty to dispence the Keyes, is the gift of all objectively, but doubtlesse subjectively, onely of some.

Object. *Cyprian determined not to act* sine consilio cleri & consensu plebis *Epist. 6.*

Answ. 1. He doth not say it was his absolute duty, though he might see a present necessity of so doing, a pastor

a paſtor as *Greg. Naz.* ſaith, *fiſtula ſæpe, pedo rariſsime utitur. Cyprian* wanted civil protection, apoſtolical gifts and miracles riches and favour of overſhadowing great ones. It was a time of faction and corruption. Though the Law of God requires obedience, yet the perverſneſs of men is ſometimes beſt charmed by perſwaſions. *Finis legis non ſemper cadit ſub legem.* 2. *Cyprian* ſpeaks thus in reference to the reſtitution of the relapſers, which was then much controverted. At other times, he ſaith, and that frequently even to his Clergy, and urgeth, *Epiſcopatus vigorem & cathedræ authoritatem.* He did elect Miniſters, *Numidicus* a presbyter, without the people, and received penitents, *renitente plebe*, and commanded his Clergy to receive them to communion, any one ſingly, without the people, or the reſt of the Clergy either. It is clear that *Cyprian* intended no more in thoſe words then his purpoſe to act ſo, as that the brethren might ſhew themſelves pleaſed and not offended, if it could be; The whole ſeries of his doctrine and practiſe proves it. 3. The conſent of the people was more hopeful in *Cyprians* time then in ours, becauſe when they had no thought of their authority, but only of a liberty to interpoſe reaſon, if any were at hand, they would be the more ſilent. It was then granted according to *Cyprian*, that Biſhops were the Apoſtles ſucceſſors. *Eccleſia conſtituitur ſuper Epiſcopos, & inde à Chriſto per temporum & ſucceſſionum vices Epiſcoporum ordinatio decurrit. Dominus elegit apoſtolos, hoc eſt Epiſcopos, Epiſcopi verò diaconos. Epiſcopi vicaria ratione ſuccedunt.* 4. Where is any mention of the peoples voting with Elders in any matters of diſcipline? How ſhould it come to paſſe that Elders did univer-

ſally

ſally come to govern ſo abſolutely without oppoſition, if it had been innovation? The peoples conſent is alwayes deſirable, and *Cyprians* deſire commendable? *Clementi patientia magis cupimus vincere, quam ſacerdotali licentia vindicare.* *Cyprian* ſeeks no more from the Clergy then Councel, and only that as he ſheweth, *Epiſt.* 14. in publick meetings there was granted unto others their preſence. *Unus eſt judex & ſacerdos vice Chriſti in eccleſia,* was a Church cannon with him. *Cyprian* lived in poor times, alwayes obnoxious to the ſword, the Presbyters were prone to ſchiſm, the people alwayes over-deſirous of liberty, ſo that nothing but religion in the people, and condeſcendency in the Clergy maintained peace and order: no wonder therefore that *Cyprian* to ſatisfie conſcience in ſome caſes, and to prevent ſchiſm and contention, perceived a neceſſity to content all ſo far as conſcience would permit. There was not ſuch a diſtance between Apoſtles or Biſhops, and brethren, as when they came to be exalted in the Common-wealth, in civil reſpects. If *Paul* had not been ſo deſtitute of outwards accommodations, horſes and ſervants, ſilver and gold, &c. his preſence would have challenged more civil obſervance amongſt the Chriſtians. All children owe the ſame reverence to fathers, as fathers, but not the ſame honour to all, as members of the Republick, ſome being mean, and others noble men. It is certain the Apoſtles did not depend on the conſent of the people, and alſo that *Cyprian* deemed biſhops the Apoſtles ſucceſſors, and that his own actions in the Church were *è diametro*, oppoſite the peoples voting. What a vanity had it been for the bleſſed Apoſtle *Paul* to have threatned the rod to the Church

of

of *Corinth*, if they having one end of it in their own hands, might have broken it in pieces by their voting. The truth is, it was a modeſt ſilence in the people, which *Cyprian* propounded; It was his ſaying of himſelf, *& verecundum ſilentium proficit ad quietem.* Surely it is no leſſe then mockery to ſet up ruling Elders, and then rule them; and it is the higheſt ſacriledge and uſurpation to encroach on the divine function.

Object. *Elders do govern in calling, moderating and diſſolving meetings.*

Anſw. In theſe things they are but moderators of actions, not governours of perſons. 2. They do theſe things as ſubject to the people, *in foro eccleſiaſtico*, for if the people judge, the Elders do erre; they may ſuſpend and diſcipline them. 3. Thoſe Scriptures which allow Elders thus to moderate, do alſo afford more power, where the *Apoſtle* ſaith, *obey them which have the rule over you*, without exception, why do we ſo limit their power, and diſtinguiſh of obedience. 4. The people do eſſentially govern in greateſt matters. Their vote is eſſential to compleat the judicial determination. 5. The people do govern in chief, becauſe they vote with Elders, and can conſtrain judgement, and reſtrain the Elderſhip. 6. The people in the congregational way do attend government as upon an office, as if they had the office by partnerſhip with the Elders. 7. It is rational, that the people voting with the Elders, the major part ſhould carry it againſt the Elders. 8. It is rational, that the people having power to act upon their Elders offending, and to act againſt them in caſes depending, that the major part ſhould alſo act without the Elders

in

in case they refuse. If the people must vote with Elders, what institution gives an Elder a casting vote, where the suffrages are equal. And if they may set up a moderator, and call the Elder, refusing to vote, into question, why may they not also immediately carry on the vote? If they can question the Elder which is a greater thing, why can they not do the lesser and vote without him? (a) *Frustra fit per plura, quod fieri potest per pauciora*; surely then the major part is Judge, the people judges, the Elders, Porters, cryers, Informers, at most but Speakers in Parliament. 9. Elders in this way have no commanding power, as to the Congregation, or major part, because no obedience is due *in foro ecclesiastico*, while the people may judge, as they see cause as well as the Elders. 10. In Parliament all that Vote do governe. 11. They that do bind and loose do govern, but in the Congregational way the people do binde and loose. They do so compleat the Elders binding and loosing, that their Votes must necessarily concur. 12. Congregational principles do not rationally afford Elders power to call and dissolve meetings, otherwise then *ad arbitrium populi in foro Ecclesiastico.* The major part hath power to judge whether it be meet to come, being called, or to depart being dismissed. Let it be remembred that such as usurped the Priests office under the Law were to die, *Num.* 4. 15, 19, 20. 13. The determination of the case depends on the Vote of the people, as well as on the Vote of the Elders, nay more. 14. The Elders do not command the people to Vote, because they are at liberty to be negative, or affirmative or neutral, to Vote or not to Vote to the case.

a The Elders determination and vote doth depend as much, and more upon the Apostles vote, then the peoples vote upon the Elders for the casting of the case.

Prop.

Of Church-Officers, their Ministry and Subordinations.

Prop. 4.

ELders are sent by Christ to preach the Gospel in way of office. 1. They have both gifts and authority to preach the Gospel, They are sent, and sending notes authority by commission from Christ. An Ecclesiastical office is a power to dispence holy things by Christs institution and ordination, *Rom.*1.5. 2 *Cor.* 13. 10. *Heb.* 3.1. *Tit.* 2. 15. 2. They are sent as Christ, and Christ was sent in way of office, *John* 20.21. *John* 17. 18. 3. Christ sends them as his Ambassadors, 2 *Cor.* 5. 20. *Ephes.* 6.20. 4.Their Commission is fully expressed, *Mat.* 18. 19. 5. They are sent to preach, as to baptize, therefore in way of office, *ibid.* 6. *Paul* acknowledgeth his office, and magnifies it, and calls it a grace, *Rom.*1.5. and 11.13. 7.One was chosen in *Judas* his place to fill up the number of the highest order, *Acts* 1.16.8. It concernes the beauty of the Church, that there should be order, and therefore official preaching of the Gospel. The world was without forme till it was set in order. An Army without order is a confused multitude. 9. Order is most beneficial, and consequently official preaching: It is both for the beauty and benefit of the body, that

only the eye have the office of seeing. 10. It is for the honour of the Gospel, and the ordinance of preaching that it should be dispensed in way of office. 11. Preaching is a chief part of the ministerial office, *Acts* 6. 2, 4. 1 *Cor.* 1. 17. 12 It tends to edification, that the Gospel should be preached by order and office: the preaching by common persons lessens the esteem of the ordinance, and consequently proficiency thereby. 13. It glorifies Gods holiness and greatness, that those that come so near him in way of worship, should be separated and consecrated in way of sacred office. 14. It exalts grace to set up a saving office in the world. 15. Preaching the Gospel is a representation of Christs prophetical office, *Heb.* 3. 1. 16. God sent Priests and Levites, and Prophets only to preach under the Law. 17. There is need that some should be in office, that they may study the original Scriptures, and the arts, and the fallacies of mens hearts, *Tit.* 1. 9. 1 *Tim.* 3. 2. and 2. 22. 2 *Chron.* 31. 4. and 5. 32.

Prop. 5.

ALL Elders are sent in way of office to preach to all the world as occasion serves. 1. Their commission is evident, *Mat.* 28. 19. 2. The world is to be converted in way of office by preaching, *Rom.* 10. 15. *Mat.* 16. 15. *John* 17. 20. 3. Edification of believers requires preaching in way of office, why not also the conversion of unbelievers. 4. It is meet the Gospel should be preached in way of office, if it be preached, and it ought to be preached to all the world. 5. The Apostles were Apostles to the world, therefore Elders to the world also. 6. The Elders administer as

Elders

Elders to members of other Churches, why not a' ſo preach as Elders to new Members. 7. It tends to edification, and nothing at all offends, that Elders ſhould preach to all in way of office, it holds forth the more grace to the world. It greatly affected the Gentiles to hear that *Paul* was ſent by God to them, *Acts* 13.4,7. and 9.17. 8. Every thing acts according to its nature, and what hinders an Elder from acting as an Elder. Elders are Candle-lights and Star-lights. A candle gives light as a candle to all preſent. A ſtar ſhines upon the earth as well as in heaven. An Elders ſphear of activity is not limited in this reſpect by his commiſſion.

Prop. 6.

ALL Elders are Elders to all Churches as occaſion ſerves. 1. Elſe Churches have leſs intereſt in Elders then the Nations. Elders are Miniſters to all Nations, therefore to all Churches. 2. Members have priviledge to partake of ordinances in all Churches, therefore Elders have power to diſpence Ordinances in all Churches; Communion of Elders is as rational as Communion of members. 3. It tends to edification, and nothing at all offends. 4. All Elders are elected by the power of all the Churches, by the conſent of the Catholick and ſupreme power. A King in a Kingdom doth chuſe bygrant and conſent, the particular Officers of all Corporations. Elders are elected by all, and for all. 5. The nature of an Elders Office both in gift and commiſſion is unlimited

in this respect. The stars of heaven shine to all men on earth, and as theirs, because God hath ordained them for all men over the whole earth. An Elders relation to a particular flock, is but a common adjunct, not the Essence of Office. 6. It hath ever been the faith and practise of the Church. *Quod est novum non est verum.* 7. All Priests and Levites were Priests and Levites to all Israel.

Prop. 7.

GIfted brethren may not preach in the Church at pleasure. 1. God condemns such a practise, *Jer.*23. 32. *Numb.* 16. 10. 2. All that preacht in primitive times were Prophets or Elders in Office, so far as may be concluded from the Scriptures. *Amos* might not have preached, because no Prophet, nor son of a Prophet, if God had not called him, *Amos* 7. 14. *Mal.* 2. 7. *Mat.* 13. 32. *Tit.* 1. 9. 2 *Tim.* 2. 2. & 1. 3. 2. *Acts* 15. 32. & 18. 24. 1 *Pet.* 1. 12. 1 *King* 13. 34. *Mat.* 18. 19. *Rom.* 10. 15. 2 *Cor.* 26. 3. According to many Texts, none but Prophets and Elders ought to preach, therefore others should not be permitted to preach farther, then other Texts do allow them, according to *Rom.* 10. 15. Men must be sent before they preach: this Text of it self, further then it is interpreted by other Scriptures, confines preaching to mission. According to *Heb.* 5. 1. The dispensation of holy things and preaching is confined to ordination, further then is interpreted by other Scriptures. According to *Acts* 15. 32. preaching

ing is confined to the ſingular and miraculous gift of Propheſie, further then other Scriptures do interpret it. Had we no other Scripture that did ſpeak to the point, we ſhould allow none but Prophets, none inferior, leſs then a Prophet, to preach. 4. In the Temple none but Prieſts and Levites did adminiſter, though others could kill ſacrifices, and ſprinkle blood, and kindle fires, *&c.* as well as they. The Church of God is Gods Temple; and publich worſhip in the Church, is publick worſhip in the Temple of God. God doth ordain ſome ceremony as well as æquity of holineſs, to the end of the world in publick worſhip. 5. It defaceth the beauty, and diminiſheth the benefit of order: It leſneth the eſteem and efficacy of the holy ordinances: It is unſutable to the Holineſs and Majeſty of the great God, to be worſhiped by common perſons and maimed ſacrifices: too much familiarity is contempt: It renders the Miniſtry contemptible: It corrupts and deſolates the Church with the plague of errors and Hereſies, the plaguy frogs and lice of *Egypt*. Such as have excellent gifts may do ſome good, but the queſtion is, whether all things conſidered, they will not be more hurtfull then profitable, if they exerciſe their gifts without order.

Object. *Common brethren preached*, Act 11. *Apoſtles preached*, Acts 18.

Anſw. It is clear enough that ſuch as preached, were more then common brethren. *Jeruſalem* was full of Prophets and extraordinary Elders. *Philip* is named for one of them that preached, which rather argueth the reſt to be ſuch like perſons. And concerning *Apollos*, it need not be doubted, but that he

he was a Prophet. The Text doth not affirm any of them to be common members, only that preached, and other Texts do not admit them to be such. An extraordinary gift of Prophecy, though fallible, was a sufficient call, for the ordinary exercise of it. The extraordinary gift of tongues, was a call for the publick use of it; it is also to be observed, if common Disciples did preach according to the places objected, yet they did not preach in the Church, but to those without. It may be immodesty, though not disorder for common members, to preach to those without: it is both, for such, though gifted and educated for the Ministry to preach in the Church, without due leave and caution from Church-power; it might be one of *Johns* Disciples that did cast out Devils, *Mar.* 9. 28. And accordingly *Apollos* might be a Prophet, though he was baptized by *John.* It is affirmed that he was fervent in the Spirit, *Acts* 18. 25. This fervency in the Spirit sufficiently intimateth the extraordinary motion of the Spirit in reference to his preaching (common in those times) besides, his gifts, and the practise of others, do declare him to be no ordinary disciple, but at least one indued with prophetical gifts.

Prop 8.

SOme Elders may have superiority of jurisdiction over other Elders, according to Christs institution. 1. It is not imaginable that Bishops should come by such power, as is recorded in ecclesiastical history, and that over all the world, and in way of ambition

ambition in ſuch humbling times, without all manner of oppoſition for three hundred years together, and immediately after the Apoſtles, had it been uſurpation or innovation: When and where is innovation without oppoſition? Would not Elders, ſo many ſeeing and knowing men, at leaſt ſome of them, have contended for truth, wherein their own liberties and rights were ſo much intereſſed. *Aerius* his oppoſing of Biſhops, ſo long after their riſe and ſtanding, is inconſiderable. 2. It is evident that godly fathers did believe biſhops to be ſtated by the Apoſtles. It is to be ſeen what *Ignatius* hath left behind him for witneſs hereto, together with *Clemens* and *Egiſippus*, and *Iræneus*. And it is ſuppoſed, that two of them knew the *Apoſtles*. According to *Tertullian*, *Apoſtolick* Churches bring in their account by ſucceſſion of Biſhops, running up to the *Apoſtles* or their ſchollars: *De præſcriptionibus adverſhæret*: According to *Jerome*, *Mark* was made Biſhop of *Alexandria* by the *Apoſtles*, *Timothy* of *Epheſus*; *Titus* of *Creet* by *Paul*: and ſuch apoſtolick traditions, according to him, were taken out of the *O.T.* ſo that what *Aaron*, his ſons and Levites were in the Temple, the Biſhops, Elders and Deacons may challenge in the Church: He largely ſhews alſo the neceſſity of Biſhops to maintain peace, that elſe there will be ſo many Schiſms as Presbyters, that *Jacob* and *Eſau* could not but ſtrive in the womb, that *Rome* would not ſuffer two brethren to reign together, *De ſcriptoribus eccleſiaſticis*, *ad Ruſticum monachum*, *ad evagrium*, *proæm in comment ſuper Matheum*. *Cyprian* affirmeth, that ordination of Biſhops deſcended from the *Apoſtles* by conſtant ſucceſſion, *Epiſt.* 69. 4. & 65. 4. & 69. 3. & 75. 14. 3. Though Biſhops

in

in *Cyprians* time did agitate weightier matters, as the receiving of the Lapsi, and such like, by the common Council of all the Clergy, and many Bishops together, yet they did exercise power alone also in ordinations, and in restitution of the Lapsi themselves in some cases, and in censures, *Epist.* 75. 3. and 40.7. & 45.2. & 62.3. & 64.4. & 65.1,4. & 67.6. & 27.1. *Cyprian* doth peremptorily assert, that there was but one Priest and judge, and that the Bishop was to be obeyed as the Lords Priest under the Law. He frequently commands his whole Clergy, and much more to this purpose might be urged out of *Cyprian* and others. But it is not mine aim to enlarge, neither have I books, nor sufficient reading so to do. 4. It is sutable to the first constitution of the Church. The Apostles had power of jurisdiction over other Elders. And the first constitution in *Israel*, though the first Governours, as *Moses*, and *Aaron*, and *David*, &c. were extraordinarily constituted by God, was permanent in following ages. 5. The Angels of the seven Churches in the Revelation, cannot be otherwise understood without a figure, which is nothing necessary. 6. *Timothy* and *Titus* had such delegated power in *Ephesus* and *Creet*, why might not others also. They had not such power as Evangelists, unless they were delegated by the Apostles. 7. Singular gifts in Elders do bespeak singular honour and power also. 8. There is need of such order unto the end of the world. 9. An Hierarchy of such order is a great ornament in the Church. The order of twelve Apostles with their Thrones, is something of the beauty of heaven. *Paul* bids *Timothy* keep the commandements of ordaining, and receiving accusations

tions againſt Elders, *&c.* to the end of the world. This argues *Timothy* and *Titus* have ſucceſſors in over-ruling power to the end of the world. 11. According to the commiſſion, *Mat.* 28. 19, Apoſtles do continue to the end of the world, and therefore Superiority of juriſdiction in Elders doth continue. One Biſhop may be called the Biſhop, though there are other Biſhops. Chriſt is called the Apoſtle, though there were twelve Apoſtles under him. The Lord, though there be other Lords under him, ſo there was one judge in Iſrael called the Judge, though there were many other Judges alſo inferior to him in juriſdiction. *Cyprian* is confident, that the Biſhops were peculiarly the Apoſtles ſucceſſors. How came *Diotrephes* to rule ſo abſolutely in the Church? He is not blamed for ruling by himſelf over the Church, but for ruling proudly over the Apoſtle. 12. The Prieſts, Levites and Singers had their heads and Princes in Iſrael, ſome under *Ithamar*, and all under *Eliazar*. The *Cohathites* had their Prince, and the *Gerſhonites* had their Prince, and the *Merarites* had their Prince; every order of the Prieſts had its head and Prince: The ſinging Levites had their heads and captains, and ſo the Porters, *Num.* 3. 24, 32. & 4. 16, 28. 1 *Chron.* 24. 3, 5, 6. & 25. 2. & 26. 10. It is evident that among the Prieſts, ſome were Rulers, or Princes, as it is in the Original over others, 1 *Chron.* 24. 5, 13. There were twelve Princes over the Tribes, and Captains over thouſands as well as over hundreds, to carry Iſrael all along to *Canaan* the type of heaven, *Num.* 2. *Deut.* 1. Some of the Churches children muſt be Princes under Chriſt their King over all the earth, *Pſalm* 45. 16. Such were the *Apoſtles* and 1 Tim. 6. 14.

their ſucceſſors, inſpecial as being ſet over others, ruling under him as Princes. 14. The deſcription of the Church, *Ezek.*44. and 45. doth ſufficiently ſhew that the Platform of the Chriſtian Church in point of Government is correſpondent to that ſtate of the Church under the Law, except wherein the inſtitution of Chriſt doth alter it. The *Apoſtles*, extraordinary Elders, and their eſpecial ſucceſſors, may be ſignified by the great Presbytery in *Jeruſalem*, conſtituted by *Moſes* the type of Chriſt. The ſons of *Aaron* and *Zadoc* may ſignifie the ſame, the extraordinary Elders, and their ſucceſſors in the ſubſtance, and alſo in ſome ſutable degrees of ſuperiority, deſcending from Chriſt, typified by *Aaron* and *Zadoc*. 15. In new *Jeruſalem*. *Rev.*21. there ſeemes to be a portraiture of the Chriſtian Church upon earth, not determining (whenſoever it begins) otherwiſe then in heavenly perfection. And this Church hath its City-Government, and *Apoſtles*, ſome way or other all along, as well as its angels in the ſeveral Churches. If ſuch ſuperiority, and order amongſt Elders be of Chriſt, how deſparate ſoever the preſent ſtate of the queſtion ſeems, it ſhall be reſtored again; *& ipſe conatus in magnis laudandus.*

Object. *All Elders ſeems to have the ſame Titles.*

Anſw. So had the Prieſts and Levites which had not the ſame power. 2. It is ſuppoſed the Elderſhips and their Moderators, though the Apoſtle do not ſo diſtinguiſh in any ſalutations. 3. The Apoſtles did not give diſtinguiſhing Titles to *Timothy*, *Titus*, *Mark*, *Luke*, &c. When they mentioned them to others, or in ſalutations to themſelves. Plainneſs of Spirit was moſt ſutable to ſuch men, and thoſe times.

times. 4. For as much as the difference was not between Elders in power of order, but only in degree of Jurisdiction, it may be fully ſufficient to diſtinguiſh them, by calling the Chief the Biſhop, without any preciſe title of a different nature. Chriſt is ſometimes diſtinguiſhed, only as called the Apoſtle, the Prince of Iſrael, the head and ſhepherd of the Church, *Ezek.*45. 7. *Heb.*3.1.

Object. *Jerome ſaith, Elders were all equal at firſt.* Coment on Tit.

Anſw. Yet he ſaith, that afterwards the Apoſtles ſet ſome over others. He ſaith alſo that Biſhops obtained ſomethings by cuſtome, and it is moſt likely they did riſe too high quickly after their exaltation by civil power, There was not need of placing ſucceſſors in the Apoſtles ſtead, till they were going away.

Object. *Church cannot be one Biſhop,* Mat.18.

Anſw. It is evident that one Apoſtle had Church power, and that *Timothy* and *Titus* had over-ruling power in *Epheſus* and *Creet* by delegation, as well as the Apoſtles. It was enough to tell one Apoſtle of one that had offended.

Object. *An univerſal Biſhop may alſo be granted.*

Anſw. Chriſt is the univerſal Biſhop, high Prieſt, Arch-biſhop, chief ſhephard, *&c.* viſible all along. Chriſt is the head and Prince of *Iſrael*, and Apoſtle of the Church, *Ezek.* 43.7. *Heb.*3.1. beſides we learn in hiſtory by what ſteps the Biſhops of *Rome* came to be univerſal, and alſo what great oppoſition attended his aſcenſion. A Monarch may be the beſt kinde of polity in a proportionable compaſſe, but it could not be profitable to the whole world, to be under one Monarch, which is but a man, becauſe its affairs

are incomprehensible to one poor mortal, and sinful creature, *Episcopatus est unus, cujus pars insolidum tenetur a singulis*, Cyprian.

Object. *There is no shadow of Evangelists remaining after the Apostles.*

Answ. The Evangelists as chosen to be attendants on the Apostles in their apostolical perambulations, were occasional Ministers, and ceased so far with such perambulations. Yet the Bishops had some special helpers as occasion required.

Object. *Apostles and Evangelists could not be ordinary Bishops.*

Answ. Not onely such, but they may be the greater, and the lesser together. The greater contains the lesser. The Apostles for a time served instead of the Deacons, *Acts 6.* And *James* fixedly exercised jurisdiction at *Jerusalem* instead of an ordinary Bishop. Ecclesiastical history is a sufficient witness of the practice, or *de facto*, and apostolical practice is a sufficient rule, *de jure*. It seems he that was called *Antistes, præpositus*, the Bishop in a Presbytery, by processe of time was only called Bishop, though all Elders are also according to their office essentially Bishops, and differing only in gradual jurisdiction, *multa renascentur quæ nunc cecidere, cadentque*, Gods power is glorified in reparations, *&c.* as well as in preparations.

Prop.

Of the power of Magistrates over the Church, under Christ the Head.

Prop. 9.

MAgistratical power is above Church power, over all persons and all cases in a political way. 1. Magistrates have a supream power under Christ to see the whole Law of God kept without exception, *Deut.* 17.19. *Numb.* 27.21. *Magistratus est custos utriusque tabulæ.* 2. Fathers have power over their children, and Magistrates are nursing fathers to the Church, *Esay* 49.23. The Magistrate bears the sword, the Church the keys, and the sword naturally overrules the keys. 4. It is the Magistrates duty to reform all abuses without exception, *Esay* 1.25, 26. 2 *Chron.* 15.30. and 24.4. and 29.25. *Neh.* 13.13. *Jon.* 3.7. *Hest.* 9.30. and 10.3. *Ezek.* 6.8, 11. *Dan.* 6.23. 5. It is the Magistrates end to put away all evil, *Deut.* 17.10, 7. 6. It is the Magistrates end to punish all evil, *Rom.* 13.4. 7. It is the Magistrates end to maintain all godlinesse, 2 *Tim.* 2.2. 8. It is the Magistrates end to maintain peace amongst all persons, *ibid.* 9. We have many unquestionable examples, *Exod.* 32.20. *Josh.* 22.10. 2 *Chron.* 15.13. and 19.3. and 34.4, 33. *Neh.* 13.21. *Rev.* 17.16. 1 *Kings* 2.27. and 2.23, 20. *Judex & ara sunt idem,*

1 Kings 2 3.
John 1.7, 8.
2 Chron. 23.1
Esay 60.10.
Rev. 22.24.
Ezra 1.2.
Ezek. 21.25.
1 Sam. 2.22.
Jud. 17.4.
Dan. 6.26.

ad

ad utrumque confugitur quoties alicui injuria intentatur. 10. Magistrates are masters in the Republick; and masters of families ought to maintain all peace and religion in their families. 11. Magistrates receive power from Christ as Mediator. All power is given to him, and therefore comes from him, and is given by him unto others. And Magistrates receive power from Christ, without exception in a politick way, therefore their power is correspondent to Christs Mediatorial power in a politick way. 12. Else the Church would be desolated with heresies, idolatry, prophaneness. It is needful that Magistrates should have power to preserve the Church from desolation, by taking away foxes and wolves, &c. And their power is no where limited in this respect, therefore they have such power as to take away foxes and wolves, *&c.* 13. All persons ought to put forth their just power for the preservation of the Church, and Magistrates have a just power to use the sword in their hands, against any persons for the good of the Church, and the glory of Christs Kingdome, further then they are limited. Kings must serve Christ as Kings by applying of their regal power for the propagation of Christs Kingdome, *Cant.* 2.15. *Psal.* 2. 10,11,12. The Kingdoms of the earth, and so the Kings of the earth are the Lords by subordination, *Rev.* 11.15. *Esay* 66.23. *Jus fori est jus poli, vos estis in ecclesia, ego extra ecclesiam episcopus*, Constant. 4. It appears by *Pauls* appealing unto *Cæsar*, that Magistrates have power in some religious controversies, why not in all. *Occam* therefore a great Schoolman said well, Emperor defend me with the sword, and I will defend thee with the pen.

Object.

Object. *Magistrates were types of Christ in* Israel.

Answ. 1. Not essentially. And the essence of Magistracy contained Priestly power it self, until *Aaron* was divided from *Moses*, and therefore remains such except wherein God hath shortened it by giving power to *Aaron* and his sons. 2. Magistrates were types of Christ in their whole Government, therefore if Magistrates cease in one thing upon that account, they must cease in all points of Government. 4. The old Testament is now to direct us, unless where it is altered by the New Testament. And where is the power of Magistrates repealed and lessened in the New Testament. 4. God promiseth like Magistrates under the Gospel, without any limitation or alteration, *Isa.*1.26 and 49. and 66. The Prophets do speak of the Christian Church as an antitype generally. 5. We are under the same Covenant, and of the same Church for substance, and therefore the same Ordinances do belong to us that are not repealed and antiquated; the essence of Magistracy is by no consequence repealed. 6. Greater power is not given to the Church by the Law of Christ, then was given to the Priests in *Israel*, therefore the power of Magistrates is not now lesse. 7. The ten Kings ought to defend religion without limitation in a politick way, *Rev.*17.16. 8. *Paul* appealed under the Gospel to *Cæsar*, and the New Testament confirms the power of Magistrates in all cases for peace and godlinesse also. If magistratical power was essentially typical, it would wholly cease now, without a new institution. But the Apostles command us to obey Magistrates, as stated antecedently to the Gospel. Many things accidentally typical do not cease in other respects, as marriage, the land

land of *Canaan*, &c. Magistrates have all along need of Ministers for the word, Ministers of Magistrates for the sword, all of Christ for their Oracle : *Qui nescit parere, nescit regere.*

Object. *Supreame Magistrates may be excommunicated.*

Answ. Magistrates are supreame Judges, supream Justices of the Peace, *standum est in aliquo primo.* They do hold the beam of the scales of Judgement, of all judgement in a politick way; they may judge of injurious censures inflicted upon others by Church-power, why not also of censures inflicted upon themselves. Therefore Supream powers cannot be so absolutely excommunicated, but that they may in an orderly way counter-judge the judgement of subjects, if it appears to be injurious *in foro humano.* Yet higher powers ought to acknowledge themselves subject and subordinate to Church power, as Christs ordinance, and not to presume to act Ecclesiastically, or immediately to take off Church censures though injurious. They may immediately punish offenders by politick mediums, and so help themselves and others from injuries inflicted by Church power. Magistrates are Lawgivers to the Church as well as *Moses* was to *Israel*, Numb. 21.18.

Object. *Magistrates may not punish sinnes of conscience.*

Answ. They may. 1. Sinnes committed by the misunderstanding of Gods word may be punished, therefore sinnes of conscience may be punished. A plea from Gods word, is greater then plea of conscience. The *Jews* might have been punished for their killing of Christ, though they pleaded from Gods Word, that he

he had deserved it by blasphemy. 2. Men may be punished when they sin in religious zeal, so *Saul* murdered the *Gibeonites*, and the Jews Christ, zeal argues a love of duty, and an apprehension of conscience in reference to Gods commandment. *Peter* was threatned with death by the sword, for using the sword unlawfully, though conscientiously in way of religious zeal *Mat*, 26. 52. *Pauls* mad zeal was conscientious. A mad conscience had need be restrained, *Acts* 26.6. 3. Magistrates as well as masters and fathers of families may make, and therefore execute Laws against an erroneous conscience. They may confirm Gods judicial Laws which punished idolatry, and therefore an erroneous conscience, *Deut.* 13.13. 4. Negligence is punishable without exception, and conscience is negligent when a man sinnes. *Adam* his conscience was negligent in the act, though not in the habit, when he first sinned, and accordingly punished. A negligent & corrupt Judg is punished, though ignorant: A corrupt conscience is a corrupt Judge. *Conscientia est testis, judex & vindex.* 5. God doth punish sins of conscience, and Magistrates are Gods vice-gerents, & not restrained in this respect, *Deut.* 17.19. 2 *Chr.* 19.6. 6. Magistrates under the Law did punish sins of conscience, and Law is not changed in this respect, *Exod.* 32.4. *Deut.* 13.13. 7. Men may commit murders, persecute and desolate the Church in a way of conscience therefore they may be punished for sins of conscience, *John* 16.2. *Act.* 26.9. *Rom* 10.2. *Micah* 45.8. Men may be punished in reference to sins of the mind, and why not in reference to sins of conscience also? Mad men having not the use of a rational minde, are not punishable. A conscience is a power of the minde, whereby we discern the rule, and judge of our actions and conformity thereunto. The soul, mind

and conscience are punished immediately by God, the body immediately by man. Conscience is formally punished, though mediately as well as formally the subjects of heat from fire, though mediately by the air. A murderous heretical conscience had need be corrected, not onely directed, *meliores ducit amor, plures tamen corrigit timor.* 9. If direction be not sufficient, then correction is to be applyed, to conscience, to the whole man, 2 *Tim.*3.16. 10. All disobedience is to be corrected without exception, 1 *Pet.*3.10,11. 1 *Tim.* 1.9. 11. Conscience is but a natural power of the soul, therefore corrigible, as other natural powers offending, as well as the affections, and the will, and minde, *&c. Heb.*10.22. *Tit.* 1.15,16. Men may conscientiously neglect to hear the Church, yea, persecute the Church conscienciously, which is worse. Men may be punished as contemptuous and wilfull, affecting ignorance, morally mad. *A* Master of a family corrupted, had need be corrected rather then others, because so many do depend on his integrity. A drunkard that is wont to be mischievous, and yet will follow the cups, deserves *Pythacus* his Law; a double punishment. If the sworn *Jews* had killed *Paul*, they had murdered him in conscience, *Act.* 23. 14. A rod is for the fools back, and conscience is naturally foolish, *Tit.*3.3.2. A conscience that serveth lusts is contemptuous, wilfully ignorant affecting ignorance, 2 *Pet.* 2.3,5. and naturally conscience doth serve lusts, *Tit.* 3.2, 3. The thief and adulterer may have such a conscience as to think God is like to them, *Psalme* 50.29. Heathens have worshipt God by adulterous prostitutions. Men are in a sense conscientiously criminal, when conscience permitteth the perpetration

petration of crimes, not onely when it commands. If a corrupt conſcience maketh Gods Houſe a den of thieves, it is meet it ſhould be whipt out. If conſcience be a den for thieves, and a ſhelter for murderers; It muſt not be tolerated. Gods own Temple muſt not ſecure ſuch. 13. Miniſters are to puniſh conſcience, 2 *Cor.* 10.5,6. 14. If conſcience is not to be corrected, it is becauſe it is ignorant, or becauſe there is ſome goodneſſe in it, or for ſome other reaſon. But no ſuch conſideration doth excuſe it. Not the firſt, for there is greateſt ignorance in the greateſt ſinnes, yet they are the greateſt ſins. There is more ignorance of ſome high principles in ſins againſt known principles, then in ſins that are called ſinnes of ignorance. The more knowledge the leſſe ſin, therefore the more ignorance the more ſin. It appears that the will follows the intellect in mad men. The will doth not act like the appetite of a bruit. All luſts are luſts of ignorance. True knowledge doth hinder ſin, becauſe it forbids ſin, and the will cannot but follow the ultimate dictate of the intellect. *Omnis malus eſt ſtultas, omnis peccans eſt ignarus. Ignorantia juris non excuſat.* Ignorance deſerves pity, but yet it doth not excuſe from puniſhment. Not the ſecond. There is ſome goodneſs in an heathens conſcience, godlineſs in truth according to the Goſpel, doth not exempt from puniſhment. Conſcience ſo far as it argues a good man, renders one the more worthy of regard, but not free from puniſhment, *Qui parcit culpis præſentibus, vitia tranſmittit ad poſteras.*

Concerning the Power of Christ.

Prop. 1.

CHrist the Mediator is the Head of all in a large sense. 1. The Man (1 *Cor.*11.3.) may well import all men. The reason is universal: for all are subject to Christ the Mediator. 2. Head is taken for any beginning, *Ezek.*16 25. and Christ is the beginning of all men, as preserved by his Lordship and mediation. 3. Governours are called heads in the Old Testament, and Christ doth govern all the world, 1 *Cor.*8.6. *All things are both by him and under him.* There are many heads, Princes, Kings, Lords, Apostles, but Christ is the head, the Prince, the King, the Apostle, the Lord. 4. All powers receive the sword from him over all the earth, *Psalm* 2.8. *Rom.*14.8. *John* 15.21. *Gal.*6.2. *Phil.*2.9,10. 5. All power is given to Christ first, therefore it must be from him, *Matth.*28. And it is given to him as Mediator, because it is said to be given, power is not given to Christ as God properly. Christ is considered as Mediator because he is distinguished from God, 1 *Cor.*15.25. 1 *Cor.*11.13. .6. It is necessary for the salvation of the Church, that Christ as Mediator should be invested with all power, for else he would not save the Church compleatly as mediator. 7. All wisdome and power dwells in him

Exod.6.14.25
Deut.1.15.

him as Mediator, because it is from Gods pleasure, *Col.*1.19. 8. Angels are subject to Christ as Mediator, therefore all men, 1 *Pet.*3.22. Christ sends Angels up and down the world, and that as Mediator, because his power ariseth from donation, not onely from eternal generation, and both in heaven and earth, *Mat.*28. 9. It is sutable to the dignity of his person; all the Angels must worship him, the Meadiator and God-man. 10. Christs Throne is at the right hand of God as he is anointed, *Psalm* 45. 11. Christ as man is son by personal union, by temporal generation, by favour, *Psalm* 2.7. by promise, *Heb.* 1,5. 2 *Sam.* 7. 14. such sonship bespeaks Lordship over all. 12. Angels acknowledge themselves Jesus his servants, and the Name Jesus points to Christs Mediatorship, *Rev.*1.5. and 22.9. 13. Christ is Prince of the Kings of the earth as distinguished from God, therefore as man, Mediator, *Rev.*1.5,6. 14. Christ hath power by gift to send his Ministers and Angels, and spirit over all the world to subdue all Nations, Christ sends the spirit by impetration, creatures by commandment as Mediator. 15. Christ is Lord over all by petition, *Psal.*2. 16. Christ is Lord of all by institution, P*salm* 2. and 8. *Heb.*2.5. 17. All things were subjected to Christ, because he was by suffering made inferior to Angels, and conformable to servants, *Heb.*2. 7. *Phil.* 2. 9, 10. If the Angels were to worship the humane nature, then to obey it as united to the divine. 18. Christ is Lord by unction, King, Priest, and Prophet, and so by office Mediator over all, though for the Church, *Esay* 61. 1. P*hil.*2.7,8,9,10. 19. By remuneration, P*hil.*2.9,10. If all Magistratical power were not from Christ, it should be cashiered, because Christ, as Mediator, hath

all

all power in his own hands. If Church power be all power, it is the only power to be owned in the world, *Christus totius mundi clavum tenet.* 20. Christ is head of the church as Mediator and man to save it, why not also of the world to govern it? Christs solitary reigning as immediate shall cease when all his enemies are his footstool, 1 *Cor.* 15.25. 21. Christ is not onely considered in his Lordship as distinct, but also as subject to God, 1 *Cor.* 15. 27. Christ doth governe as man, and is a visible head as man, because the humane nature doth govern with the Divine. Sinful men do govern, why not the humane nature of Christ? The church shall reign over all the world, well therefore may the humane nature of Christ with the divine person. Yet it is to be understood, *quoad rationem communem vel specificative*, that Christ is head of the world as man, though he be visible as man, *quoad rationem ultimam* or *reduplicative.* Christ is a Lawgiver like *Moses*, therefore both with and under God, as man and Mediator, *Gal.* 6. 4. A man as man is a living creature, *quoad rationem communem.* Christ is head of the world, onely *quoad rationem communem*, if the world be compared with the church.

Prop. 2.

CHrist is Head of the Church as Mediator and man, both to defend it and to govern it, in specialty. 1. The Scriptures do sometimes appropriate Christs headship to the church, *Col.* 1. 18. *Ephes.* 5.23.

5. 23. christ is an husband to the church. And an husband is the head of the wife, *Ephes.* 5. 23. 1 *Cor.* 11.5. 3. Christ is in special the Prince of *Israel*, the King, Priest and Prophet of his church, *Ezek.*45.7. and 46. 10. All the former reasons prove that Christ is the head of the church, a mystical and figurative head over all persons. 4. Christ as King, Priest and Prophet converts the whole world into his church. As Apostles and all Ministers are Ministers to the whole world, so Christ is King, Priest and Prophet to the whole world, for the converting and discipling of the elect. In respect of Government Christ as man is head of the church, onely *quoad rationem communem*: in respect of conformity, *quoad rationem ultimam*: Christ is the corner-stone that is ingraven with seven eyes, as having all graces transcendently, and the spirit essentially in him, *Zech.*4.7. and 3.9.

Prop. 3.

CHrist as Mediator is under God. 1. Christ is found in the form of a servant, in the real forme of a servant, though he was also in the real forme of God, *Phil.*2.7. 2. Christ is for God as subservient to his glory, and therefore under God for the acquiring of the end, 1 *Cor.*2.23. 3. He is made subject by mission and acceptation as God, by union and submission as man, 1 *Cor.* 15. 17. 4. Christs will is subject to Gods will, in the Lords prayer. 5. Christ was obedient in suffering death, *Phil.* 2.4. 6. Christ acknowledgeth the father to be greater then himself, *John* *John* 14.31, 24. and 15.10.

John 10. 18. 7. Christ received commandments from God, *John* 10.18,26,39,40. 8. Christ as man is a creature. 9. Christ is called Gods servant, *Esay* 42.1. and 53. 11. God as considered essentially was his God, *Mat.* 27.46. *John* 20.17. 10. Christ was subject in sacrificing himself to God, *Rev.* 5.6. *Solomon* reigned under *David*, *Joseph* under *Pharaoh*, Christ under God as man and Mediator reignes for ever. 11. Christs Lordship hath been proved before to be subordinate. 12. Christ assumed the humane nature that he might be meet to execute the mediatorial office in way of subjection. The person of Christ is the *principium quod*, the acceptation of the office is the *principium quo* on Christs part. All the acts of the humane nature were the acts of the person. *Actus sunt suppositorum.* Therefore all the acts of the humane nature in way of obedience, were acts of the person.

Object. *The Deity of Christ could not be different from its self.*

Answ. Yes, *quoad statum œconomicum.*

Object. *The acts of Christ as God were acts of the Trinity.*

Answ. Quoad essentiam & efficentiam, not determinatively.

Object. *Christ as God was to be satisfied himself.*

Answ. Christ satisfied himself as God, *mediante natura humana. Opera Trinitatis sunt indivisa ad extra quoad essentiam, non quoad determinationem.* Therefore the second person only assumed the humane nature, and in it satisfied the justice of the Trinity. Christ is Lord by purchase, not onely by eternal generation and inheritance; by donation, not only eternal necessity, *Phil.* 2. He is made higher then the heavens, by his

his high authority over the Angels, or powers of heaven, *Heb.* 7. 26. He is said to have this high authority as made higher, not only as begotten higher. Kings, Priests and Prophets did rule in Israel under Christ, so Christ under God as Mediator, *Rev.* 19. 10. *John* 13. 3. & 17. 3. *Mat.* 11. 27, 29. *Psalm* 110. 1, 2. *Heb.* 1. 4, 13. *Rev.* 2. 26. 2 *Pet.* 2. 1. *Mat.* 28. 27. The humane nature prayed, obeyed, suffered, dyed, wrought miracles, forgave sins, breathed the Holy Ghost, and when he was glorified sent the holy Ghost. Thus the humane nature did co-operate with the divine. And what the humane nature wills, the divine nature effects. All the world is under Christ, *quoad obligationem*, though not as yet *quoad acceptationem*; *agnitionem & voluntariam*, *subjectionem*. Christ is made more excellent then the Angels, and hath obtained a more excellent name then they, *Heb.* 1. 4.

Object. *what doth not Christ, being Lord of all, presently and perfectly reform all.*

Answ. He acts according to his commission, and Gods decree, by a higher rule then is revealed to us.

Object. *Why doth the world gain by Christs mediatorship.*

Answ. All the world is reprieved from present execution. 2. He gives all good things, food and gladness, God hath given all to him. 3. Life is proferred to all, and that Elect before they are visibly in the Church, may be converted by him. 4. by him the means of grace are conferred. 5. By him all may hope for eternal life. 6. All are redeemed and justified by him conditionally, according to the outward dispensation of the new Covenant.

Of Admission of Members, and distinction of Church-Rulers.

Prop. 1.

PRofession of faith, and repentance, and subjection to the ordinances, is the rule of admission. 1. The examples of the Apostles, which we ought to imitate, are pregnant and evident for this rule. Thousands in a day could not be admitted, as declaring the manner and measure of conviction, conversion, consolation, *&c. Act.* 2.41. 2. The weakest in the faith are be received, *Rom.* 14.1. And some sound, though weak in faith at first, can say no more then is contained in this rule, such are to be admitted that can shew no more then *Ananias*, *Saphira* and *Simon Magus*, if it be likely that these did say no more then was in them according to truth. (*a*) And *Ananias*, *Saphira*, &c. may well be thought to receive the Apostles words willingly, which is as much as the rule required, we find that many do cleave to Novelties in religion gladly, where they have not such motives as attended the apostles doctrine, namely, without such gifts, miracles, and care to relieve Disciples, as appeared in the apostles. 4. Such as shew a willingness to repent, & to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus without known

Act. 2. 41.

(*a*) All in the Church are probably sincere in comparison of such as are without, and have not the means of Grace. There may be an incomplete probability of sincerity, as compared with meer possibility, concerning such as are in the Church, and enjoy the means of grace under the gracious Covenant.

known dissimulation, are to be admitted. The Text doth evidently prove it, *Acts* 25. 5. God did thus receive *Israel* into Covenant often, *Exod.* 24. 3, 4. *Deut.* 29. 14. 6. Such as answer this rule are sincere to us, according to rule in comparison of those without, and because we cannot distinguish between one and another; God only knows the heart) *privilegia sunt amplianda.* (*b*) 7. It is evident by the examples of *Sampson*, *Solomon*, the *Corinthians*, and many others, that Christians may be sincere at the bottome, and yet want of education, information and ordinances, and by reason of tentation and constitution, especially in the Nonage of first conversion, appear much weaker then others. Some Christians do outwardly and proudly attire themselves after the Pharisaical form and fashion, not in plainness of spirit, but without or above their estate in truth of grace, were there not want of an humble consideration of our own sins, we should not dislike others, indulging our own weakness. God doth suffer all to sin, that as he, we might learn to be mercifull to all like him. Buds on Gods Olive are more easily blasted and broken, then grown boughs, and therefore should be cherished more.

2 Chron. 15. 14. Neh. 10. 29.

(*b*) Some without are near the Kingdome. Some in the Kingdom are near the grace of the Kingdome, in comparison of those without. 1 Cor. 11. 20.

Prop. 2.

PRobability of sincerity is unnecessary to membership. God did admit Israel into Covenant, when there was little hope of the greatest part. 2. Some are admitted, and have been admitted, though very suspitious in comparison of others. When

there is not hope of the greatest part, there cannot be probability of such in particular, as are least hopefull. (c) 3. In times of declension how can there be probability of the salvation of most children at baptism, if there be not absolute probability of most that are baptized by rule, that they shall obtain sincerity, why may we not admit adult persons, without such probability of their having obtained it. 4. *John* Baptist seems to fear, more then to hope, concerning such as he admitted, and called a generation of Vipers. The rule of admission shews that men may be discipled, though untaught in many catechistical points, and the Apostles in their practice did not take time to catechise persons at large before they were admitted, *Mat.* 28. 18, 19. 5. Notwithstanding the rule of admission, or notwithstanding the promise of Conversion in primitive times, the Apostles might have admitted more in sincere Christians, then *Ananias*, *Saphira*, and *Simon Magus*, yea most of such a stamp. It depends more on Gods providence, then on his ordinances, to render members sound in the faith. And Gods providence doth sometimes make way for Apostacy and Jugdement. All that were admitted might have been no better then *Ananias*, and according to the rule of admission, in possibility: most are no better in probability at sometimes. 6. It seems most in *Sardis* and *Laodecea* were unsound when admitted, *Rev.* 2: 43. *Multi sunt lupi intus, multæ sunt foris oves.* God hath provided that the wheat be preserved, however it be disposed concerning the tares, *Mat.* 13. 29. God doth take into Covenant such as are vessels of wrath, as for other ends, so also to facilitate the conversion of their elect Children. God doth produce wheat

(c) Those that are in the Kingsome are nearer the grace of the Kingdome, then those without, as those that are near the Kingdome, are nearer than those that are a far off. And those near the kingdome are in the kingdom with an incomplete probability, or with a comparative probability, in comparison of such as are a far off, yet not with an absolute probability.

wheat out of tares: And the vessels of wood and stone do illustrate the vessels of silver and gold in Gods house.

Concerning the Distinction between teaching and ruling Elders.

Prop. 1.

ALL Elders are teaching Elders. 1. The Scripture doth generally describe Elders by teaching, they are to teach and baptize, *Mat.* 28. 19. To feed, notes teaching as well as ruling, *Acts* 20. To exhort with wholesome doctrine, *Tit.* 1. 9. They must be διδακτικοὶ, 1 *Tim.* 3. 2. They are such as bring the word of the Lord, *Heb.* 31. 8. 1 *Pet.* 5. 2. *Jer.* 3. 15. 2. Had there been ruling Elders in *Jerusalem*, when the Apostles chose Deacons, they might have attended on the widows, and not been interrupted in the word and prayer. 3. Its not sutable that Elders for rule only, should have such equal honour and maintenance as is required, 1 *Tim.* 5. 17. 4. It is contrary to Gods ordinary dispensation of power: that Elders so inferior in gifts and office, should have equal power to rule with those that do excell in gifts, and that are entrusted with the Tables and seals alone. The Priests that were so entrusted and gifted above Levites, were set also over

over Levites in Israel. 5. I cannot yet find any evidence in antiquity for this distinction betweeu Elders. The Apostle maketh it necessary that all Bishops or Elders should be διδακτικοὶ, 1 *Tim.* 3. 1. apt to teach, holding forth wholesome doctrine, able to exhort and convince, *Tit.* 1. 9. It seems clear that the Apostle requir es all Elders to be teaching Elders in these Texts. 7. All Elders may administer the seals therefore there is not such distinction between Elders, as is pretended. The antecedent is proved from the former Texts, compared with *Mat.* 28. 19. All Elders must teach, or are sent to teach, 1 *Tim.* 3. 2. *Tit.* 19. & all that are sent to teach, are also sent to baptize, *Mat.* 28. 19. 8. All Elders that are sent to teach have full power to disciple, or to admit, and baptize, therefore meerly ruling Elders have not a co-ordinate power of ruling with teaching Elders, if there be such a distinction. Teaching Elders may admit, and why not do more also according to their commission, *Mat.* 28. 19. without ruling Elders, or against ruling Elders. 8. It is certain according to *Cyprian*, that the Bishops did rule in chief, and that all Elders were *Sacerdotes* in primitive dayes. 9. Elders are described by the sons of *Zadoc*, which did not only govern, *Ezek.* 44. 15. And this Text speaks of the Gospel-Church, as is evident. This Text doth represent by the sons of *Zadoc*, all Elders, it not Bishops only.

Quod est scrum, non est verum. Ter.

Object. *The Apostle maketh a distinction between Elders,* 1 *Tim.* 5. 17.

Answ. Did any evidence in antiquity appear for such a distinction, I should not dare interpret this Text, as distinguishing the office of Elders without much dubitation, sith the Apostle doth so absolutely affirm, that

that all Elders must be apt to teach, and that they must hold forth wholesome doctrine, 1 *Tim.* 3. 2. *Tit.* 1.9. But sith antiquity doth not give in clear evidence, and the texts alledged do speak so expressly, I cannot presume so far as to conceive such a sense. 2. The Text it self maketh no difference in the honour and maintenance as to its degree, but only in respect of solicitude about it. All must have double honour, though some are to be considered as chiefly deserving it. 3. Those that laboured in the word and doctrine did also rule: therefore those that ruled, may not rule only, according to the Text. 4. The word προεσῶτες may include teaching in the way of authority as well as other acts of ruling, so a master is said προισάμενος, 1 *Tim.* 3. 4. And a master doth govern by teaching in way of authority, as well as other wayes. 5. The Text may fully intend no more, then a distinction between Elders in respect of gift and laboriousness in attending thereon. Thus *Paul* was the chief speaker in comparison of *Barnabas*, and yet *Barnabas* was a speaker, and deserved honour. Thus *Paul* attended on the word, and appointed others to baptize, and yet such Elders as attended on baptizing, did well, and deserved honour. And thus *Paul* also laboured (as he saith of himself) more then all the *Apostles*, and yet the other *Apostles* laboured well, and deserved honour as well as *Paul*.

Ob. *Governours are distinguished from helpers*, 1 Cor. 12. 28

Ans. It is the intent of the Apostle to speak here of distinct gifts, or of members as indued with distinct gifts, as well as of officers. An officer is not indued only with one distinct gift, but with many. Miracles, Tongues, Interpretation of tongues, do not im-

import so many distinct Officers. The Apostle mentioneth Members eminent in gifts, together with Members eminent in office. 2. Else why doth the Apostle say Governments, and not Governors. 3. Helps do seem to answer to the gift of Prophecy and Governments, to the discerning of spirits, *verse* 10. Wisdome may be the eminent gift of the Apostles. Knowledge may be the eminent gift of Prophets. The word of faith may be the eminent gift of Evangelists, *&c.* And thus *verse* 28. will be correspondent to *verse* 8, 9, 10. And all along the Apostle speaks of distinct gifts, as well as of distinct Officers.

Object. *Teaching Elders are the Doctors.*

Answ. Where are the pastors then numbred, if they are distinct in Office? 2. The Doctors are rather the Evangelists, else Evangelists are left out, else Governments should have been placed next to Doctors. It is most opposite to the Apostles enumeration, *Ephes.* 4. 11. Ordinary Elders are no where else described by the Title of Doctors, Doctors are here set in the middest of *Apostles*, Prophets, Miracles, Healings, which are all extraordinary gifts, not only in respect of their cause, but also in respect of their use and permanency in their specialties. We read of such extraordinary Doctors, *Acts* 13. 1.

Object. *There is a distinction between Elders*, Rom. 12.

Answ. 1. It is the Apostles project to speak of the

the gifts and faculties of members, both in Office, and out of Office, *verse* 5. and from *verse* the *ninth*, to the end of the Chapter. 2. There is no reason to interpret Prophecy here otherwise, then as a gift of edification in those out of Office, else the gift of Prophecy in common Members, which was in the Apostles time frequent, though extraordinary in respect of the cause, is not spoken of at all. And it seems here to be distinguished from the gift of office in *verse* 7. First the Apostle speaks of the gifts of dispencing divine things unto *verse* 9. or of edifying gifts, *ver.* 9. Secondly, from *verse* 9. he descendeth to common gifts, or to gifts of dispensing humane things. Concerning edifying gifts, he first reckoneth Prophecy, that which is competible to common Members, as well as to Officers. Secondly, he speaketh of the gift of office complete, *ver.* 7. Thirdly, He instanceth in the partial gifts of office, namely exhorting, teaching, *&c.* Teaching is a Ministry, 1 *Tim.* 4. 5. and Teachers are Ministers, 1 *Cor.* 4. 1. 3. Why should ruling else be set between distributing and shewing Mercy. 4. Teaching is not a complete office, because all Elders must exhort as well as teach, *Tit.* 19. exhorting is not a complete office, because all Elders must teach as well as exhort, 1 *Tim.* 3. 26. Shewing mercy is not a complete office, because all Deacons must distribute, as well as shew mercy. And consequently, ruling is not a distinct and complete office, according to the *Apostle* here. One El-

der may have a singular gift of exhorting, and another of teaching, and a third of ruling, and so Elders may differ gradually in gifts, as the right hand from the lift, yet not in office, because every Elders office is to teach, exhort, and rule also. He that proficyeth only, is not a distinct officer; he that speaketh with tongues only, is not a distinct Officer; he that interpreteth tongues only, is not a distinct Officer; so he that exhorteth, is not a distinct Officer; he that teacheth, is not a distinct Officer; he that ruleth or discerneth spirits, is not a distinct officer. These administrations do not adequately or completely describe so many distinct Elders in point of Office, but are all necessary to every Elder: Especially in 1 *Tim.* 5. 17. doth note a gradual distinction, not essentially an official distinction. aud so *Gal.* 6. 10. especially doth note a distinction between the world and the Church, but not a n official distinction. And as all in this place notes both believers and unbelievers in general, so Elders that rule well in the other Text, notes all teaching Elders, that do comparatively attend more on ruling then on teaching.

The Miſchief of Separation.

Prop. 1.

IT is unlawfull to deny Communion with a Church before cenſure, in ſuch as have not authority to cenſure, while there is no neceſſity of ſinning by holding Communion, except in caſe of ſuffering perſecution thereby. 1. Communion is a duty, and therefore not to be neglected, but according to ſome rule, or authentick example, which is not found in Scriptures, for the denying Communion as it is propounded. 2. Chriſt, the Apoſtles and Prophets, *&c.* did communicate with the Jewiſh Church, notwithſtanding its corruptions. 3. Our Saviour expreſly commands hearing of the Phariſees, and ſacrificing in that ſinfull ſtate of the Prieſts and Doctors. He writes to the Churches of *Aſia*, ſo as to confirm their mutual communion, for the oppoſing of *Jezabel* and lyars, *Rev.* 2. & 3. 4. *Paul* confirms Communion with *Galatia* and *Corinth*, in that he directs them how to communicate, and commands conjunction

ction unto the cutting off Seducers, 1 *Cor.* 11. 17. Neither doth he deny Communion with particular perſon, before there was legal and ſufficient proof, or with any Church for the faults of many, or the greater part in it, before the caſe was argued, though he had ſuch Apoſtolical authority. 5. The rule, *Mat.* 18. 17. doth not admit authority it ſelf, to count ſo much as a particular Member, much leſs a whole Church: a Publican and Heathen, before tryal, private brethen, and ſuch as have not authority, cannot do it in way of authority without uſurpation. *Paris in parem non eſt poteſtas.* It may be ſaid to ſuch, who gave ſuch an authority; as *Joas* committed murder in killing *Amaſa*, though *Amaſa* deſerved death. 7. The Church is a mother, and there are fathers in it, how ſhould children as ſuch, puniſh fathers and mothers? *Jonathan* may hold communion with *Saul*, till he perſecutes him with his ſpears. 8. It cannot be done in way of charity to the Church. The reaſons alledged, ſhew that it cannot be lawfully done upon any account. The rule, *Mat.* 18. the examples of Chriſt, Apoſtles, Prophets, *&c.* do conclude it. Beſides, that irregular wayes are provocative. 9. It may not be done to avoid ſin by participation. The reaſons above ſpecified, do ſhew that this is not a ſufficient reaſon. This was not a ſufficient reaſon to the Apoſtles nor Prophets. Chriſt commands the contrary, notwithſtanding this reaſon. Meer preſence is not participation in evil. *Eliah* for ſome end was preſent at *Baals* ſa-

crifice. It is an offence to our ſelves, not a priviledge, to deprive our ſelves of ordinances, for others offences. It is vanity to diſcipline others, by correcting ones ſelf. We do not ſin with others, unleſs we conſent to others ſins. It was dangerous for *Obadiah*, *Nehemiah*, *Daniel*, &c. to live in ſuch Kings Courts, and yet lawfull: we may form theſe laſt arguments thus, we may not deny communion in way of authority, nor upon any other conſideration, farther then is cautioned in the propoſition, therefore not at all: we may not deny communion in way of charity to the Church offending, nor upon any other conſideration, further then is cautioned in the propoſition, therefore not all. We may not deny communion, for fear of participation with evil, nor upon any other conſideration, therefore not at all. There was Idolatry oft in Iſrael, Hereſie in *Galatia*, Hereſie and corrupt manners in *Corinth*, *&c.* and yet communion was lawfull in theſe Churches: Publicans enter into life ſooner then proud ſchiſmatical Phariſees. Schiſm is feigned piety, and therefore double iniquity: Corrupt Ceremonies are polluted garments: but Schiſm is a fire and a poiſon in the bowels and hart of the Church. *Dii Meliora piis ardoremq; hoſtibus illum. Tantæne animis cæleſtibus iræ?*

Prop.

Prop. 2.

PEace unto edification is to be preferred before circumſtantial truths. 1. Peace doth more promote Love naturally, then ſome truth, and ſo naturally doth more edifie, *Rom.* 14. 1. 17. 19. 22. Chriſt ceaſed to preach fundamentals themſelves at times. And he gives all a licence or warrant to flee, and ſo to ceaſe from preaching fundamentals themſelves, when perſecution hinders edification thereby. One ordinance gives place to another for edification ſake. Chriſt and the Apoſtles did not alwayes preach the Word. 3. Peace may be ſo diſturbed for circumſtantials, as to deprive us of fundamental truths. 4. Mercy is the moſt aceeptable ſacrifice. And there is moſt mercy in making peace to edification. 5. It is greater mercy to enjoy peace, than circumſtantial truths. One duty muſt give place to anorher. 6. It is ſutable to the deſcription of Saints, they are doves, ſheep, lambs, little children. 7. The kingdome of God conſiſts more in peace, then in contending for ſuch truths, *Rom.* 14. 22. We muſt not only tolerate, but alſo indulge the weak, when we do not believe with them for edification ſake, 1 *Cor.* 10. 33. The Apoſtles made decrees, and declared them without giving reaſon of them, and the Gentiles were bound to obey them; the things

things decreed being lawfull, though it was a burthen to themſelves, while it did edifie the Jewes, *Acts* 15. Our Saviour did carry himſelf as a friend to Publicans and ſinners, for to win them. 8. We muſt conceal ſome truths (there being not time and place alloted us in our mortal condition) to give place to the greater, thereby to procure peace for the edificationand fruition of greater truths. *Paul* preferred peace before the maintaining of Genealogies, though true, 1 *Tim.* 14. 9. One may conceal ſome truths for ones own peace, therefore for the Churches peace unto edification. Hence it was partly that Chriſt avoided the Jews ſo oft by withdrawing himſelf. 10. All duties and gifts may be ſuſpended in way of omiſſion for edification, 1 *Cor.* 12. 7. & 14. 26. *Rom.* 14. 17. 19. Chriſt and the Apoſtles firſt taught truths of greateſt concernments, *Heb.* 6. 1,2. *Rom.* 14. 1. Such as are contentious for leſſer truths, are apt to be zealous for errors: Peace is eſpecially to be maintained, with ſuch as being in authority are defenders of truth. It is better to lay by ſome truths, then by contention to weaken the authority of ſuch as are defenders of truth in fundamentals; *Plura ſunt optanda quam præſtanda.* A Church that ceaſeth not to be a Church by providence, or ordinance, ceaſeth not to be the noble Iſrael of God. Iſrael was not divourced, notwithſtanding many backſlidings and pollutions, while God afforded them true Prophets or preſerved ſome ſaving doctrine in their Teachers. Chriſt walked in the midſt of the Golden Candleſticks, though ſome of them

them were ſo corrupt, *Rev.* 2. 3. *Laodicea* ſeems to intend the Popiſh Church ſpecially, though its apoſtacy be ſo great, and hath been maintained ſo long by a cruel and bloody faction, the man of ſin being head thereof: they have bread and water, though by weight and meaſure, *Ezek.* 5. 16, 17. *Pray for the peace of Jeruſalem.*

FINIS.

DA661
~~N955m2~~

DA661
N955M
op.2